

Pakistan supports Geneva talks

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The government reaffirmed its support Wednesday for the U.N.-sponsored Geneva talks on a comprehensive settlement of the Afghanistan war. Following two hours of talks between U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez and Pakistani officials, the Foreign Office announced it remained committed to the agreements reached in the Geneva talks. A Foreign Ministry spokesman described Cordovez's efforts and said the Pakistani government had suggested an extension "to promote resolution of the outstanding issues before completion of the proposed Geneva agreements." He did not elaborate. Cordovez first arrived in Islamabad on Jan. 10, flew to Kabul on Jan. 23 and returned Tuesday. Upon his return, he said there were "certain difficulties" concerning progress in holding the next Geneva talks. "We have to sort them out," he said. The ministry spokesman said that to end the war, "the formation of a broad-based interim government has been considered an indispensable requirement."

Jordan Times

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Crown Prince to chair talks on economy

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will chair an international symposium in Davos, Switzerland, Friday during which Jordan's economic development will be discussed. Prince Hassan will deliver an address at the opening session dealing with world economic conditions, relations between North and South and Jordan's development and economic potential as well as Jordan's relations with international economic groups and Arab countries. A Jordanian delegation, which will accompany Prince Hassan and attend the symposium, left Amman for Switzerland Wednesday. It includes Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib, Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan, Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Tabbas, Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh, Central Bank of Jordan Deputy Governor Maher Shukri and a number of officials representing economic organizations in the country.

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Rifai meets W. Bank lawyers

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Wednesday received Jordanian Bar Association (JBA) President Hussein Mujalli and a delegation representing lawyers in the occupied West Bank who are in the East Bank to discuss aid offered by the Jordanian government to Arab lawyers who have been on strike in the occupied West Bank since 1967. Following discussions with the lawyers, Rifai decided that funds will continue to be paid by the government to West Bank lawyers to strengthen their steadfastness on their homeland.

Israeli workers protest occupation

TEL AVIV (R) — About 500 Israeli mental health workers have signed a petition against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, saying it was led to racism and violence against the Palestinians in the occupied territories. The petition, to be published in the Hadashot newspaper on Friday and signed by social workers and psychiatrists, draws attention to the conditions of fear and humiliation to which Palestinians have been subjected since Israel occupied the territories in 1967. "We have learned over the years to shut our ears, blunt our feelings, as if all this were not happening to us or issuing from us. We are being swept into a life of fear, violence and racism," the petition said.

Baccouche ends visit to Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche left Baghdad for Tunis after 24 hours of talks on the Iran-Iraq war and bilateral relations, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said. The agency quoted Baccouche as telling Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan that his government fully supported Baghdad's right to defend its sovereignty and pride. Baccouche, who came to Baghdad from Jordan, had also visited Syria, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Kuwait emir receives Egyptian message

KUWAIT (R) — An Egyptian minister Wednesday delivered a letter from President Hosni Mubarak to the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said. It did not disclose the contents of the message, which followed a pledge by Mubarak during a Gulf tour earlier this month to help to defend Kuwait from any attacks stemming from the Iran-Iraq war. Egyptian Justice Minister Farouk Seif Nasr also held talks with Kuwaiti Justice Minister Dhari Abdullah Al Othman on ways to boost cooperation in the judicial sphere, KUNA said.

Six said killed in Fez protests

PARIS (AP) — A violent protest in the Moroccan city of Fez last week left six dead and hundreds injured, according to a statement released Wednesday in Paris by the Action Committee for the Liberation of Moroccan Prisoners. Official sources in Morocco said the confrontation took place between police and students at the University of Fez, demonstrating in support of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

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Arabs escalate protests despite Israeli savagery and detentions

Expulsions reportedly postponed

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli leaders have postponed the expulsion of five more Palestinians, sources said Wednesday. They said the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, the foreign minister, Shimon Peres, and the defense minister, Yitzhak Rabin, decided not to deport until at least Sunday the five who are accused of inciting violent protests against Israeli occupation last month. "Shamir, Peres and Rabin decided to postpone the deportations because of the international reaction to what is happening in Israel and the territories and because they might cause the riots to begin again and damage Israel's image," a source said. The inner cabinet met Wednesday to decide when to expel Faray Ahmad Khalil Khayri, Mohammad Abu Samara, Hassan Ghanim Mohammad Abu Shakra and Khalil Kuku from the Gaza Strip after the four dropped appeals to the supreme court Tuesday in protest at being denied access to secret evidence against them.

The fifth Palestinian, Adil Bashir Nafa Hamad, from the Qalandia refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, withdrew his appeal to Israel's highest court last week. Three more Palestinian activists ordered deported before the uprising began Dec. 9 were brought blindfolded, their hands and feet tied, to the supreme court where their appeals were being heard Wednesday, sources and eyewitnesses said. Speaking at a news briefing, a foreign ministry spokesman refused to confirm or deny reports that the ministry recommended the expulsions be delayed. A military spokesman, present at the briefing, said coordinating statements made by the foreign ministry and the army, would only say, "They could be deported at any time." Israel faced world condemnation earlier this month when it expelled four Palestinians from the West Bank to southern Lebanon. The sources said it was likely the five facing deportation would also be dropped off just outside Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Widespread Palestinian protests erupted again in earnest Wednesday in the occupied West Bank and Gaza and Arab demonstrators clashed with Israeli soldiers in more than half a dozen areas in the occupied territories.

Israeli newspaper published accounts of indiscriminate beatings of Palestinians by Israeli soldiers and there also appeared to be a growing discontent among the troops against orders to beat



Israeli soldiers arrest a Palestinian in Ramallah as his mother pleads with them against the arrest.

Jordan urges Security Council to give new impetus to peace conference idea

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Jordan, speaking for all Arab states, called Wednesday for new efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East, which Israel has again rejected. Abdullah Salah, the Kingdom's permanent delegate to the U.N., said in the Security Council that the conference should make a settlement that would ensure Israel's withdrawal from Arab lands occupied in the 1967 and 1973 wars, including Jerusalem. The Palestinians should be permitted to return to their homeland and be assured of the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on their national territory, Salah said. He was the first speaker when the council resumed debate on the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza, following a report

last Friday by Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar that also called for an international peace conference. Perez de Cuellar said the underlying problem in the occupied territories could be resolved only through a political settlement that responded both to the refusal of the Palestinians to accept a future under Israeli occupation and Israel's determination to ensure its security and well being. In his statement in the council, convened to consider the report, Salah said a comprehensive, just and lasting peaceful settlement was a viable undertaking if there was a political will to achieve it. "We have said in the past and we state once again here and now that we would like to see this settlement achieved," Salah said. "Without such a settlement, the situation will continue to deteriorate and in-

up Arabs in door-to-door sweeps through refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Israeli army said it had placed 129 Palestinians in "administrative detention" without trial since the Palestinian uprising started in the occupied territories Dec. 9. The controversial practice, left over from the pre-1948 British mandate in Palestine, allows a suspect to be jailed for up to six months without due process of law. An army spokesman said a further 1,753 Palestinians were still under arrest, including 577 who have been sentenced to jail terms by military courts during the seven weeks of protests. The spokesman said 111 Palestinians had been placed in "administrative detention" in the West Bank and 18 in the Gaza Strip during that period. It was the biggest wave of detentions for many years.

Protests continue

In Anabta on the northern outskirts of Jerusalem, a squad of police and byrdier policemen armed with M-16 assault rifles and clubs fired tear-gas canisters and rubber bullets into a crowd of demonstrating Arabs. They fired dozens of tear-gas canisters at the Palestinians who

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His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday receives French Deputy Prime Minister Edouard Balladur (Petra photo)

King receives message from Chirac, reviews Mideast events with Balladur

By Sa'd G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received French Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance Edouard Balladur for talks believed to have focused on the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, the Iran-Iraq war and the situation in the Gulf. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Balladur delivered to the King a message from French

Prime Minister Jacques Chirac on "France's unwavering stand on Middle East issues and the Iran-Iraq war." It gave no further details. Petra quoted the King as expressing to the French minister Jordan's appreciation of Paris' position vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Gulf war. The King said Jordan was keen to improve Jordanian-French relations in all fields, Petra added. King Hussein described the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories as a spontaneous

result of continued Israeli military occupation and the deprivation of Palestinian people of its legitimate rights, Petra said. Jordan Television said the King's talks with Balladur dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East, the Iran-Iraq war and means of boosting bilateral relations. The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Ouseim, Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh, French Ambassador to

(Continued on page 3)

Jordan-PLO talks begin in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Talks began at the Prime Ministry Wednesday between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The Jordanian side to the talks were headed by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and included Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin, Information Minister Hani Khasawneh and Interior Minister Rajai Dajani. The PLO side was headed at the talks by Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas and included fellow Executive Committee members Abdul Razak Al Yahya, Abdul Rahim Ahmad and Abdullah Al Hourani. Abbas and Hourani arrived



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai meets PLO Executive Committee members Mahmoud Abbas and Abdullah Hourani at the outset of Jordan-PLO talks held at the Prime Ministry Wednesday (Petra photo)

Egyptian leader briefs Shultz

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak briefed Secretary of State George Shultz Wednesday on a plan to end violence in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza as the United States appeared to put fresh force into its regional peace efforts.

Mubarak, whose initiative calls for a six-month moratorium on violence by both Palestinians and Israelis in the West Bank and Gaza, also met Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci. He meets President Ronald Reagan Thursday. Mubarak met first with Shultz and then talked with Carlucci, Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng and Treasury Secretary James Baker.

"We had a very worthwhile discussion, and that's about all I can say at this time," Shultz said after the 65-minute meeting with the Egyptian leader.

State Department officials are reluctant to describe Mubarak's latest Mideast initiative as a peace plan. They seem intrigued mostly by his suggestion for a moratorium on violence. "Until violence is brought to an end, people won't be in a state of mind to negotiate," a senior U.S. official said Tuesday before Mubarak arrived on a flight from London.

The Reagan administration has also sought Israeli views on the uprising and prospects for Middle East peace by playing host this week to a senior envoy of the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, Eliahu Rubinstein. One U.S. official said Rubinstein met Tuesday with Shultz's aide Charles Hill.

Iraqi leader rules out truce accord with Iran short of total settlement

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has reiterated his country's stand that it would not accept any ceasefire in the seven-year-old war with Iran unless it was part of a total settlement to the conflict.

The Iraqi leader's statement, which appeared in a Saudi newspaper published Wednesday, was followed by an emphatic Iraqi attack on a Iranian-linked supertanker off the Iranian coast. It also coincided with criticism by the Iraqi foreign minister of Syrian efforts to arrange a dialogue between Arab Gulf states and Iran.

"The Iraqi president's interview was published in the Saudi Arabian newspaper Al Yom.

"It would not be in the interest of the Iraqi and Iranian nations that the military operations between the two countries cease without a settlement of the war," he said. "Too much blood has been spilled and matters have taken too grave a turn in threatening regional and global security," the Iraqi leader said in the interview.

The president told Al Yom that pan-Arab solidarity and Arab and international coordination along with Iraq's military strength would help pressure Tehran. There were "new beginnings" within Iran calling for an end to the war with Iraq especially after the Arabs heightened their solidarity at the November Arab summit held in Amman and pressure by the international community was mounting against Iran, the Iraqi leader said. "It's my duty and responsibility to keep calculating till the last moment as long as the war is not over and is continuing, but when any glimmer of hope or chance of ending the war emerges then we have to interact with it," he went on.

But what he rejected was "attempts to end the military operations without ending the war, attempts meant to keep the state of war existing in light of the international balances in the region."

"What is needed is a comprehensive and final end to the war that will preserve for each party its total sovereignty," he added. "No progress in Syria-Iraq ties

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said there has been no recent progress in efforts to improve his country's relations with Syria, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

"There is nothing new on this topic," Aziz was quoted as telling the daily Al Dustour in an interview conducted Monday. He also criticised Syrian efforts to mediate between Iran and Arab states. "What is needed now is to stick to Amman's summit resolutions," he added, according to the newspaper.

He also criticised Syrian efforts to broker talks between Iran and Arab Gulf states. "Nobody has asked Syria's

(Continued on page 3)

Palestinians seek urgent international protection

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Two Palestinian leaders from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip called on the U.S. administration Wednesday to support an international peacekeeping force to protect Palestinians in the occupied territories from Israeli troops.

In a letter released while they were meeting U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz at the State Department, Jerusalem newspaper editor Hanna Siniora and Gaza lawyer Fayez Abu Rahme said: "Our people are in urgent need for immediate international protection from the brutality of Israel's military authorities." The letter said intervention in the occupied territories by an international force "to whose trusteeship our population can be delivered" should be a first step towards convening an international peace conference under United Nations auspices. A copy of the letter was made available to the Jordan Times.

The letter was signed by Siniora and Abu Rahme and addressed to Shultz. A statement said to be issued by the Palestinians living in the occupied territories accompanied the letter to Shultz. The statement listed a number of demands that it said the U.S. administration should seek to fulfill as a "means to prepare the atmosphere for the convening of the suggested international peace conference which will achieve a just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian problem in all its aspects."

The demands included in the statement were: — To abide by the fourth Geneva Convention and all other international agreements pertaining to the protection of civilians, their properties and rights under a state of military occupation; to declare the emergency regulations of the British mandate null and void, and to stop applying the Iron-fist policy. — The immediate compliance with Security Council Resolutions 605 and 607, which call upon Israel to abide by the Geneva Convention of 1949 and the Declaration of Human Rights; and which further call for the achievement of a just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. — The release of all prisoners who were arrested during the recent uprising, and foremost among them our children. Also the rescinding of all proceedings and indictments against them. — The cancellation of the policy of expulsion and allowing all exiled Palestinians, including the four expelled to Lebanon on Jan. 13, to return to their homes and families. Also the release of all administrative detainees and the cancellation of the hundreds of house arrest

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Darousha calls for Rabin's resignation

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli Arab parliamentarian called on Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin Wednesday to resign, saying his "iron fist" policy towards Palestinian unrest would lead to more bloodshed. "For the sake of peace, I say: Mr. Rabin you have to resign," Abdul Wahab Darousha told a public gathering on Jewish-Arab coexistence.

Darousha himself resigned Saturday from Rabin's Labour Party in protest against the handling of the rebellion in which 39 people have died on the West Bank and Gaza Strip since last month. "Rabin's 'iron fist' policy is damaging chances for peace and the image of Israel," Darousha said.

"For the sake of the Jewish people and the interest of co-existence between Arabs and Jews, I call on him to resign because I have real fears he will lead the country and the area to more wars and bloodshed." Darousha, an educator from the Nazareth area, said Rabin had entered into an alliance with right-wing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. "Together, they will put more obstacles in the way of peace despite the good intentions of (Labour Party head and Foreign Minister) Shimon Peres," he said. Rabin has been assailed by

Israeli left-wing legislators, including members of his own party, and by the United States and some other countries over his policy on the Palestinian unrest. Speaking at the same event, Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kolek said police acted in a crude and silly manner in handling Arab protests in the city. Kolek cited police intervention in Muslim holy places and a curfew imposed for 24 hours on a small Arab neighbourhood which he said was interpreted abroad as meaning the whole city was besieged.

Darousha's defection from Labour could hurt the party's chances at election-time among Israel's Arab minority of close to 600,000, or about 17 per cent of the population. He is one of five Arabs in the Knesset (parliament) and was Labour's sole Arab member of parliament.

Senior Labour politician Abba Eban told the meeting Israeli Arabs were fully justified in expressing solidarity with fellow Palestinians if their protests remained "lawful." Eban, chairman of parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee, said rightists were gaining respectability and "the air of Israel is alive with ugly ideas which once were marginal, and which are now creeping more and more towards the centre."

Another German kidnapped in Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Gunmen, some of them donning Lebanese police uniforms, kidnapped a West German in one of the busiest districts of Syrian-controlled west Beirut Wednesday, police said.

The victim was identified by police, and relatives as Ralph Rudolf Schray, 30, who works for a local chemical firm and has lived most of his life in Lebanon.

A police spokesman earlier said the victim was identified to the Police Department as Ralph Strauss, but later issued a statement correcting the identification.

Relatives denied Beirut radio reports that Schray was of a Lebanese origin.

"He was born in Beirut in 1957 to a West German father and a Palestinian mother and had been registered since birth as a West German," one relative said. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

The police spokesman, who cannot be named in line with standing regulations, said the gunmen snatched Schray as he walked across a sidewalk off west Beirut's Hamra commercial thoroughfare at 11:05 a.m. (0905 GMT).

The West German embassy could not be immediately reached by telephone because of a power outage gripping the capital.

The assailants were in three cars and "some of them wore police uniforms," the police spokesman said.

He said they "pushed Schray into one of their cars at gunpoint and sped off."

But Khalil Deeb, a 36-year-old Syrian janitor of a nearby apartment building, said only two cars were involved, a black Mercedes-Benz and a red Renault.

"Five gunmen came out of the two cars, grabbed the bloodless, bespectacled victim and pushed him into the Mercedes. He repeatedly screamed through the window and the kidnappers kept pushing his head down."

Another gunman, wielding a pistol in one hand and a Soviet-made AK-47 Kalashnikov assault rifle in the other, ran in front of the two cars shutting at motorists to make way, Deeb said.

"A traffic policeman tried to stop the kidnappers, but the gunman on foot pointed the Kalashnikov to his stomach and then climbed into the Mercedes which sped away followed by the Renault," Deeb added.

Another witness said the kidnappers bearded toward west Beirut's low-income Zokak Blatt district which is a stronghold for the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, or Party of God, militant faction.

Hezbollah, made up of Shiite Muslim extremists loyal to Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, is believed to have an umbrella for Iranian-backed underground factions involved in the kidnapping of foreigners in Lebanon.

"As the cars slowed down in a street near the Syrian-manned Murr Tower skyscraper, the victim managed to jump out of the Mercedes," said the witness who refused to be named.

"But a gunman followed him and forced him back into the car that raced off before the Syrians could make any move," he added.

The kidnapping is a direct challenge to Syria's law-enforcing effort in west Beirut which has been policed by a 7,500-strong Syrian army contingent since Feb. 22.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher visited Damascus Jan. 15-16 and discussed with Syrian President Hafez Assad among other issues the fate of West German hostage Rudolf Cordes still held in Lebanon. Mr. Genscher said he had asked the Syrians for help in efforts to

secure his release.

The victim is the second foreigner kidnapped near Syrian army checkpoints since the February deployment. The first was American journalist Charles Glass who was snatched on Beirut's southern edge last June 17. He gained freedom Aug. 18.

Hamadi refused to testify

In Duesseldorf, the judge in the West German trial of Abbas Ali Hamadi said the new abduction would complicate proceedings.

Judge Klaus Arend read a statement in court saying that if Wednesday's kidnap had been carried out by people linked to the abductors of Schmidt and Cordes, "things could get difficult and the opposite of what had been possible could now occur."

Arend did not elaborate. West German officials had earlier discussed the possibility of expelling the two brothers from West Germany once they were sentenced.

Earlier Wednesday, Mohamed Ali Hamadi was flown to the court in a police helicopter from the Frankfurt prison where he is awaiting trial. But he refused to testify and was led out of the top-security court after 30 minutes.

Churches call for solidarity with revolt

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — The Middle East Council of Churches appealed to its members and churches around the world Tuesday to declare Jan. 29 a day of fasting and Jan. 31 a day of prayers in solidarity with Palestinians in the Israel-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

MECC Secretary General Gabriel Habib said in a statement the appeal was in response to a similar one issued by the heads of Christian communities in Jerusalem declaring Jan. 24-31 a week of prayer for Palestine. But he said the appeal had been co-opted by the Israeli authorities.

The Lebanon-based MECC represents 12-14 million Christians throughout the Middle East. Both the MECC and the Jerusalem Christian leadership appealed for donations of food and medical and human services for the Palestinians.

Habib called on Christians of the world to express solidarity with the Palestinians "in their struggle for full human and national rights," and to call upon the Jewish people "to break the ideology of fear and trauma... which underlies the present aggressive policies of Israel."

He called for support of U.N. efforts to create a framework for negotiations on the Middle East conflict leading "to the total withdrawal of Israel from all Arab territories, guaranteeing security for all countries in the region, and the implementation of the Palestinians' right to self-determination."

Demjanjuk calls witness a liar

TEL AVIV (R) — Accused Nazi war criminal John Demjanjuk grabbed the microphone at his trial Wednesday and angrily yelled in Hebrew at a death camp survivor testifying against him: "You are a liar, a liar, a liar."

The outburst came after prosecution witness Eliyahu Rosenberg, ordered to take the stand again after the defence revealed it had new evidence Tuesday, told the court:

"If (Nazi death camp guard) Ivan was dead he would not be sitting here now."

300 Arabs hospitalised after indiscriminate Israeli beatings

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — At least 300 Palestinians have been hospitalised for injuries inflicted by beatings at the hands of Israeli troops trying to crush seven weeks of revolt in occupied areas, Israel state radio said Wednesday.

It quoted military sources as saying the figure included Palestinians treated in local hospitals under Israeli control in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but not those treated in health centres run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

U.N. officials have said they treated for fractured limbs and other injuries some 120 Palestinians beaten by soldiers carrying out Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin's policy of "might, force and beatings."

Rabin has been assailed by Israeli left-wing legislators, including members of his own Labour Party, and by several European countries, the United States and American Jewish leaders over his "iron fist" policy to crush the unrest.

Israeli troops killed 39 Palestinian demonstrators and wounded some 300 by gunfire since the protests against Israeli occupation began on Dec. 9, and Rabin said he was instituting the policy to prevent more Arab deaths.

No Palestinians have been killed since Rabin announced the policy change last Tuesday, but Israel is coming under mounting world criticism as the number of Arabs injured by Israeli beatings increases.

Mahmud Mohammad Alian lay in a coma, shivering, in a bed at the Gaza Strip's largest hospital.

Bruises discoloured his chest and left arm.

Alian, 58, is a victim of Israel's much-criticised tactic of using beatings instead of bullets to put down the rebellion.

Arab hospital officials said Israeli soldiers have beaten about 600 Palestinians in the Gaza City area alone, many of them indiscriminately. They said about 20 per cent are women.

Israeli lawyer Felicia Langer, who represents Palestinians, filed a complaint with the attorney general's office on behalf of 19 Gazans who claim they were beaten or shot although they were not protesting.

On Tuesday, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin defended the beating policy. He said chins are less deadly than rifles and soldiers had been ordered to use beatings to contain the revolt, not as street-corner justice.

Rabin added on Israel Radio, however, that he had reports of indiscriminate beatings and "we are taking actions against those (soldiers) who are and were engaging in them."

Rajda Irtih, 48, his son and his brother lay side by side in beds near Alian at Shifa Hospital in Gaza.

Field workers for the United Nations say they have dozens of reports of Israeli soldiers going into homes at night and beating an entire family.

"The first 12 people on this list, for example, are all from the same family," said Colin Sutherland, pointing to a typewritten page with names and ages of 52 Palestinians in the Jabalya Refugee Camp, and descriptions of injuries they suffered Jan. 18.

ADC opens office in East Jerusalem

WASHINGTON — The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) has appointed noted Palestinian journalist and civil rights activist Daoud Kuttab to lead its newly-established office in East Jerusalem.

The decision to open the office was prompted by information gathered during a July fact-finding tour of the West Bank by ADC President Abdeen Jabara, Legal Affairs Director Albert Mokrher and a delegation of American human rights attorneys.

During that visit it was learned that the 9,000 Palestinian-Americans currently residing in the occupied territories were in need of an organisational structure that would defend them against discriminatory practices by Israeli authorities.

With the establishment of an active chapter, ADC will attempt to mobilise the Palestinian-Americans who are residing there to address a wide range of problems including, but not limited to, family reunification, land confiscation, harassment at points of entry, and the routine denial of residency and other permits by Israel.

The East Jerusalem office will also serve as a valuable source of information — information that will be useful in ADC's U.S. efforts to persuade the U.S. administration to use its considerable influence to put an end to Israeli human rights violations on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Court told RJ hijack suspect advised of rights

WASHINGTON (AP) — An accused Lebanese hijacker was formally advised of his rights prior to four days of interrogation by FBI agents aboard a U.S. Navy ammunition vessel, a witness told a federal court Tuesday.

Two FBI agents informed Fawaz Yunus of his rights according to U.S. law after he was arrested aboard an FBI-leased yacht off the coast of Cyprus, transferred to the USS Butte and examined by a physician, court testimony disclosed.

Yunus, a former Shiite militiaman charged with participating in the 1985 hijacking of a Royal Jordanian airliner, was persuaded to board the yacht on Sept. 13, 1987, by Jamal Hamdan, a friend who promised he could meet an influential Beirut businessman.

Special agent Dmitry Droujinsky, who said he grew up in Jerusalem and is fluent in Arabic, told a U.S. district court here that he greeted Yunus as be

boarded the boat and later explained why he was arrested as the accused hijacker was lying face down on the ship's deck.

Defence lawyer Francis D. Carter, in court papers, charged that two FBI agents deliberately slammed Yunus to the deck, breaking his wrists. Droujinsky said he was walking behind Yunus, Hamdan and other FBI agents and was unable to see how the defendant was treated during the arrest.

After the transfer to the ordinance ship and an examination by Dr. Clarence H. Braddock III, Droujinsky and special agent Thomas P. Hansen informed Yunus of his rights. The defendant was also given a written Arabic version that he later signed.

Carter questioned Droujinsky, 48, who moved to the United States from the Middle East in 1959, about his familiarity with Lebanese law.

U.N. report cites new torture cases in Iran

GENEVA (AP) — A U.N. report has cited allegations of more than 14,000 killings by Iranian government agents in 1981-87, including 2,000 newly discovered cases, and evidence of continuing torture in the Islamic state's prisons.

But in the fourth annual report on Iran to the U.N. Human Rights Commission, special investigator Reynaldo Galindo

Pohl of El Salvador also acknowledged the special "social legal and historic role of religion" in the Islamic state as a main reason for its "difficulties" in applying international human rights standards.

Galindo said he asked Iran to provide information on 60 alleged cases of executions and torture to death in the last two years, but received no detailed replies.

Poland closes firm said linked with Abu Nidal

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Two Palestinian businessmen left Poland this month after authorities closed down their Warsaw-based foreign trade company following U.S. government allegations that it had links to the Abu Nidal organisation, the chief government spokesman said.

Urban denied that authorities ordered the expulsion of the two Palestinians, but said they "simply left Poland after the liquidation of the company," known as the Sas Foreign Trade and Investment Co., which had operated in Warsaw for about four years.

"They were not expelled," Urban said.

TV & RADIO

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15:30 Koran
15:50 Programme Review
16:00 Children's programmes
16:10 Mop and Smiff
16:20 Children's programmes
17:15 Wonderful World of Magic
17:30 French teaching programme
18:15 Men and Machine
18:40 He's the Mayor
19:45 Health and Life (Local)
19:50 World News Reports
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Review of next week's programmes
22:00 Arabic film
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Arabic film cont.

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Rue Carrot
18:30 Terre des Aetes (French documentary)
19:00 News in French
19:15 French Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Martin's Kitchen (Part 2)
21:15 Rags to Riches
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "Dreams Lost, Dreams Found"

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07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show Cont.
11:00 Country Music
11:30 Hitville: The story of Motown
12:00 News Summary
12:30 News Summary
13:00 News Summary
13:30 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instruments
14:30 My Music
15:00 Concert Hour
15:30 News Summary
16:00 Instruments
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Hitville: The story of Motown
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:30 Our Mutual Friend
18:50 News reports
19:00 Viewers' choice (Arabic)
19:30 Local programme
19:50 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 A programme on the West Bank

FOR FRIDAY
21:15 Arabic Series
22:00 Varieties
22:30 Arabic series
23:00 News Summary
23:10 Series cont.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
10:00 Koran
10:30 Programme Review
10:50 Rainbow Rite
11:20 Cartoons and Children's programme
11:30 Religious series
12:30 Friday's prayer
13:00 Sport magazine
14:00 Art and Crafts
15:00 English series
16:00 Arabic Comedy
17:15 Believe It or Not
18:00 News reports
18:20 Viewers' choice (Arabic)
19:30 Local programme
19:50 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 A programme on the West Bank

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

a.m.-5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

EXHIBITIONS

* A painting exhibition by German artist Ingolf Grosse at the Spanish Cultural Centre (until Jan. 30).

* An exhibition about medical research in France at the French Cultural Centre (until Jan. 28).

* Plastic art exhibition, by Marwan Alwan at the Soviet Cultural Centre (until Jan. 31).

* "In the Heat of the Night" at 7.00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre.

* "Kumar" (Turkish) at 6.00 p.m. Thursday at the Turkish Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 6610267
American Centre, Tel. 664371
American Cultural Library, Tel. 661520
British Council, Tel. 626478
French Cultural Centre, Tel. 637019
Goethe Institute, Tel. 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre, Tel. 644203
Spanish Cultural Centre, Tel. 624049
Turkish Cultural Centre, Tel. 661595
Y.W.C.A., Tel. 661796
Yusuf M. Alwan, Tel. 636111
Univ. of Jordan Library, Tel. 843555

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Sciences Museum," Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9.00 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. - 8.00 p.m. Closed on Friday.
Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Quf (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

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Civil Defence Quesneish 770733
Civil Defence Dera Alia 57306
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First aid 630341
Blood Bank 778303
Defence rescue 5949, 607
Fire headquarters 620913
Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters 639141
Traffic police 896091
Electric Power Co. 640814, 640812
Municipal water complaints 771256
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport (08)5330060

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Isen Haddad 877007
Dr. Muhammad Azam 818911
Dr. Ibrahim Abu Hmeid 677436
Dr. Nidal Marqas 771218
Yacoub pharmacy 640415
Ferdows pharmacy 783336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 626772
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 640415
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

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Hotel complaints 664124
Price complaints 661176
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MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg
Apple (red/green) 420 / 360
Apple (green) 320 / 260
Banana 350 / 300
Banana (Mukammal) 300 / 240
Beans 370 / 300
Beet (green) 680 / 600
Cabbage 90 / 60
Carrot 260 / 200
Cauliflower 140 / 100
Cucumbers 240 / 180
Dates (box) 1000 / 80
Eggplant (large) 100 / 60
Garlic 260 / 200
Grapefruit 130 / 100

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Hamzeh outlines Jordan's measures to combat the spread of AIDS

LONDON (Petra) — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh Wednesday said that Jordan was virtually free from AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) due to historical and social reasons, with the exception of the few cases which were reported to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Speaking at the international conference on AIDS which began here Tuesday, Hamzeh said that only 10 AIDS cases were reported in Jordan, three of which were due to sexual contact and drug use, while the remaining seven victims contracted the AIDS virus through blood trans-

fusion during operations performed abroad.

Jordan does not import blood nor does it allow the entry of blood plasma from abroad unless it is properly tested to ensure that it does not contain the virus, the health minister stressed.

According to Hamzeh, there are over 150,000 non-Jordanians working in Jordan, in addition to half a million Jordanians working abroad thus making Jordan subject to the appearance of more AIDS cases.

Hamzeh said that Jordan had

for the past two years taken special measures to prevent the spread of AIDS, including testing blood in blood bank and promoting public awareness of the disease through health education campaigns.

The three-day conference has been organised by the British government in cooperation with the WHO with the main objective of developing a worldwide strategy for preventing the spread of the AIDS. Health ministers from 130 different countries are attending this conference, which is the first world summit on the killer disease.



Director-General of the Public Security Department (PSD) Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Al Majali Wednesday confers with Secretary-General of INTERPOL Raymond Edward Kendall on security affairs (Petra photo)

INTERPOL, PSD chiefs discuss security links

AMMAN (J.T.) — Secretary-General of the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL) Raymond Edward Kendall met here Wednesday with Director-General of the Public Security Department (PSD) Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Al Majali to discuss bilateral cooperation in security.

Majali briefed the INTERPOL chief on the establishment of comprehensive security in Jordan through security centres around the Kingdom.

Later Kendall was accompanied by senior PSD officials to the Al Muhajireen security centre downtown where he was briefed on its operations. The centre deals with juvenile delinquency cases and social problems and offers public services such as issuing car licences.

The INTERPOL chief then visited the PSD Criminal Investigations Department and was briefed on its functions.

Kendall arrived in Amman Tuesday for a two-day visit to Jordan.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lawzi meets with S. Korean envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi received in his office Wednesday South Korean Ambassador to Jordan Dongsoo Park. The ambassador, whose mission here terminates soon, discussed with Lawzi matters of mutual concern to Jordan and South Korea and cooperation in parliamentary affairs.

Birzeit board chairman dies

AMMAN (J.T.) — Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Birzeit University Mohammad Sa'idi Al Faqih died in Ramallah Tuesday and will be buried in the city today. Faqih, who had also served as deputy and chief medical officer at health centres operated by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), died of a heart attack at the age of 52. Faqih was a prominent Palestinian who dedicated his life to serving his country.

Drug trafficker sentenced

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Mohammad Jamal Rizk, an Egyptian national, to five years in prison and the payment of a JD 500 fine for trafficking dangerous drugs. The military governor endorsed the sentence Wednesday.

Palestinians seek urgent protection

(Continued from page 1)

orders. In this connection, special mention must be made of the hundreds of applications for family reunions which we call upon the authorities to accept forthwith.

— The immediate lifting of the siege of all Palestinian refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza, and the withdrawal of the Israeli army from all population centres.

— Carrying out a formal inquiry into the behaviour of soldiers and settlers in the West Bank and Gaza, as well as inside jails and detention camps, and taking due punitive measures against all those convicted of having unduly caused death or bodily harm to unarmed civilians.

— A cessation of all settlement activity and land confiscation and the release of lands already confiscated especially in the Gaza Strip. Also putting an end to the harassment and provocations of the Arab population by settlers in the West Bank and Gaza as well as in the Old City of Jerusalem. In particular, the curtailment of the provocative activities in the Old City of Jerusalem by Ariel Sharon and the ultra-religious settlers of Shavu Basim and Ateret Kohanim.

— Refraining from any act which might impinge on the Muslim and Christian holy sites or which might introduce changes to the status quo in Jerusalem.

— The cancellation of the value added tax (V.A.T.) and all other direct Israeli taxes which are imposed on Palestinian residents in Jerusalem, the rest of the West Bank and in Gaza; and putting an end to the harassment caused to Palestinian business and tradesmen.

— The cancellation of all restrictions on political freedoms including restrictions on freedom of assembly and association; also making provisions for free municipal elections under the supervision of a neutral authority.

— The immediate release of all funds deducted from the wages of labourers from the territories who worked and still work inside the "green line," which amount to several hundreds of millions of dollars. These accumulated deductions, with interest, must be returned to their rightful owners through the agency of the nationalist institutions headed by the workers' unions.

— Removing the restrictions on political contacts between inhabitants of the occupied territories and the PLO, in such a way as to allow for the participation of Palestinians from the territories in the proceedings of the Palestine National Council, in order to ensure a direct input into the decision-making processes of the Palestinian nation by the Palestinians under occupation.

Palestinians escalate protests

(Continued from page 1)

In Gaza, soldiers beat and kicked cameramen working for the American television network CBS and broke their equipment after they filmed troops hitting a Palestinian boy, cameraman Moshe Ben-Dor said.

Elsewhere, soldiers forced striking shopkeepers to open their stores and smashed Arab cars in Ramallah, Palestinian sources said. There was also a complete commercial strike in Arab Jerusalem.

The Israeli army ordered two Gaza journalists to close their offices for a year, military and Palestinian sources said. The offices of journalist Hasan Al Wahidi, who works for the Al Fajr daily, and Ahmad Abo Lashin, a freelance, were closed for "security reasons," a military spokesman said.

Palestinian sources said the journalists were given no explanation.

In Ramallah, AP photographer Anat Givon saw four Arabs being arrested and led to a bus. Palestinians also burned tyres and threw stones in the West Bank town of Qaladiah.

The Palestine Press Service (PPS) said soldiers dropped tear-gas from helicopters and used live ammunition to quell a demonstration in the Al Amari refugee camp near Ramallah.

In the Gaza Strip, demonstrators set up roadblocks and threw stones at Israeli soldiers near Beit Hanoun. Soldiers responded with rubber bullets and tear-gas, the agency said.

It said two firebombs were thrown at an Israeli military vehicle in the Jabalya refugee camp, which is under curfew.

Construction of Al Wahdah Dam to begin by early 1989

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) is preparing the final designs for the Al Wahdah Dam across the Yarmouk River along the Jordanian-Syrian border, and construction of the dam is expected to begin by early 1989, JVA Vice-President Thafer Al Aalem announced Wednesday.

Aalem said the dam, which will have a 220-million cubic-metre reservoir for water to be used for irrigation as well as drinking purposes in the Amman and Balqa regions, would also have a 20-megawatt hydroelectric project.

Nearly 75 per cent of the generated power will be supplied to Syria, according to an agreement signed between Jordan and Syria in September last year, Aalem said.

Aalem said that the JVA was currently preparing a separate tender to divert a section of the Yarmouk River from the spot where the dam is to be set up, a

project which should be completed early next year.

The diversion will involve drilling a 800-metre tunnel with a 7.7-metre radius to the right of the dam to channel the water away while the dam is still under construction, Aalem said.

He said that 30 local, Arab and foreign companies had already submitted applications for the tunnel project, and that the tender could be ready by Feb. 15.

The projected dam will be the biggest in the Kingdom and its total cost will reach nearly JD 100 million, Aalem said. He said that

the dam would create an artificial reservoir approximately seven kilometres long which would be useful for breeding fish and for recreation.

Aalem expects that the dam to be completed by 1991.

The dam agreement was officially signed by the prime ministers of Jordan and Syria in September 1987.

The designs for the dam project were prepared by HARZA engineering firm in accordance with an agreement with JVA. HARZA's work included assessing all water resources of the river, estimating the quantity of water from winter rains for storage behind the dam, studying possible designs for the dam to determine which would be the most feasible economically and technically; evaluating by potential donors; and preparing designs, tender documents and prequalifications for international companies.

Abu Nseir collecting books for future public library

AMMAN (J.T.) — The citizens of Abu Nseir housing estate have decided to give the Municipality of Greater Amman a hand. The new "city," which houses around 25,000 people is still short of public utilities, one of which is a public library.

The Greater Amman Municipality has not yet completed work on the building allocated for a public library, but a few of Abu Nseir residents have decided to start collecting books.

Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper is aiding the housing estate's residents in its drive to collect books for Abu Nseir library by accepting periodicals and books as donations from concerned organisations and individuals.

The newspaper has so far collected three hundred books.

The information office at Al Ra'i will be open to accept donations every day from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m.

Second phase of Maan water project underway

MAAN (Petra) — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) has begun the second phase of a project in Maan costing JD 340,000.

Supervisor of the project Hamad Khreisha said the second phase entails substituting 19 kilometres of the old water network with new pipes and laying 400 metres of pipe to draw water from Tahouna water springs. The project also includes building a 4,500 cubic metre-capacity water

tank at a cost of JD 10,000, which will be completed by June 1988. Khreisha said that in the past year WAJ completed 95 per cent of the first phase of the project, which entailed laying 27 kilometres of pipe. The whole project, he said, is expected to be completed by August 1988 at a total cost of JD 3 million.

The project will benefit 25,000 inhabitants, constituting nearly 85 per cent of the Maan population, according to Khreisha.

TCC to float tenders for expansion projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) will next month float tenders for projects included in its five-year plan, Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan announced Wednesday.

The minister said that the projects will add 220,000 more lines to the Kingdom's telephone network at a cost of JD 100 million.

Haj Hassan said that on Feb. 4 the TCC would announce two tenders for the execution of phases of these projects. The first tender, worth JD 24 million, is for procuring heavy equipment required for distribution grids, while the second, worth JD 33

million, will be for excavation and civil works.

The minister said that the two tenders would be floated in the international market, but the TCC has stipulated that some of the raw materials required in the first tender be purchased from the local market. He said that the second tender required the international company to award 50 per cent of its share to Jordanian contractors who should work as sub-contractors.

Later next month, Haj Hassan noted, the TCC will announce two more tenders for the procurement and installation of electronic telephone exchanges.

Iraqi leader rejects truce

(Continued from page 1)

mediation with Iran," Aziz was quoted as saying.

Gulf shipping executives said meanwhile Iraqi warplanes slammed a French-made Exocet missile into a Cypriot supertanker on

charter to Iran in a pre-dawn raid off the Iranian coast Wednesday. Iraq said its warplanes attacked another ship off Iran's coast about nine hours later, but that attack could not be immediately confirmed.



The Zarga Ma'in Spa Complex offering the benefits of the spa's therapeutic thermal waters, in addition to multiple recreational facilities.

Zarga Ma'in Spa complex offers curative benefits, visual pleasures of hot springs

Text and photos by
Monika Warich
Special to the Jordan Times

THE HEALING properties of the abundant thermal waters in Jordan have been recognised thousands of years. All along the eastern slope of the Jordan Valley about 150 thermal springs emerge, with temperatures ranging from 24 up to 64 degrees Centigrade, according to Director of the Water Research and Study Centre (WRSC) of the University of Jordan Elias Salameh. Sixty of these hot springs are concentrated in the valley of Zarga Ma'in, about 30 kilometres west of Madaba, and over 40 more in closeby Wadi Um Hudeib (Zarga).

This is also the area where Lot and his two daughters were said to have settled after his wife was turned into a salt statue because she looked back at the destroyed cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

In the Roman period, King Herodes was said to have enjoyed the healing qualities of the thermal springs of Zarga Ma'in. And in this century, the late King Abdullah had a thermal pool built for himself on a beautiful site above the small mosque with the magnificent view of the Dead Sea and the Jordan Valley.

The scenery of Zarga Ma'in itself is breathtaking, with the sides of the narrow valley rising steeply on both sides. Wherever one of the numerous hot streams has cut its way deeply into the valley sides, abundant tropical vegetation grows amidst the bare rocks.

Most impressive is the large waterfall dominating the valley. The hot water descends for nearly 30 metres, joins the main stream which flows down about 500 metres and then empties into the Dead Sea. When it arrives at the bottom, the water's temperature is still about 30 degree Centigrade.

Most of the Zarga Ma'in springs reach temperatures of up to 63 degree Centigrade. Their mineral content includes sulphur, iron, carbon dioxide and iodine, as well as many trace elements and a certain degree of radioactivity. These elements, together with the high temperature, render the water a curative agent for many ailments. The high sulphur content, in particular, produces a very distinct smell that seems to be present everywhere in the valley.

According to a study on the curative effects of all thermal waters in Jordan by the WRSC, the ailments and body functions positively affected includes:

arthritis, central and peripheral circulation, muscle contractions, gland secretion, immunity, pains, respiratory tract infections, rheumatism and skin diseases. Almost all thermal waters in Jordan are more suited to external than to internal use due to their high sulphur contents and the radioactivity factor, the study says.

The Zarga Ma'in site was long considered an ideal place for a hotel and spa complex and construction on the project started in 1983, according to its general manager, Michel Nazzari. Between 1984 and 1986, the construction came to a halt because of financing difficulties. But in 1987, work was resumed, and the complex is now almost complete. Nazzari put the project's total cost at JD 14 million, including a JD 2.5 million loan from the Belgian government. The construction was carried out by a contractor from Dubai who employed 600 Indian workers.

However, a minimum of sixty per cent of the staff to run the hotel and restaurant, and the medical and treatment sections of the spa complex will be Jordanian, in compliance with govern-

ment regulations. The remaining personnel will be recruited from the region as far as possible, Nazzari pointed out.

The spa facilities, with the exception of the hotel, have already been open to the public for the last few months. The official opening of the complex will take place in early 1988.

The complex consists of a hotel with 142 rooms, 55 double rooms in a chalet, a number of caravans, a poolside restaurant and a small supermarket. There is a beautiful conventional swimming pool with large recreational area, and a thermal and medical section with two hot water pools (one for females and one for males), which are already in use.

The hotel itself forms a completely independent unit with its own swimming pool, restaurants, thermal pools and medical section. Nazzari said that this concept of two separate units within the spa is based on the assumption that local visitors and tourists from abroad, particularly the West European countries, should not be forced to use the same facilities, bearing in mind the different cultural and social values of the two groups.



The magnificent waterfall dominating the Zarga Ma'in valley.

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U.S. should look in its own backyard

WASHINGTON was the scene of a flurry of Middle East-related diplomatic activity this week, crowned by the meeting today between President Ronald Reagan and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. While it is too early to say what could come out of the meetings the Egyptian president had with the American leaders, including the secretaries of state, defence and the treasury, the Reagan administration appeared to have given a new force to Middle East diplomacy by meeting two leading Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza. Notwithstanding the possibility that the meeting Secretary of State George Shultz had with Hanna Siniora and Faez Abu Rahme was aimed at displaying some kind of momentum in peace efforts, it is clear that the secretary of state could, in fact, arrive at a clearer picture of what is happening in the occupied territories and its far-reaching implications. Coupled with what Mubarak had to offer in the way of his proposal for a six-month moratorium on violence and a freeze in Israeli settlement in the West Bank and Gaza, and the "briefing" that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's envoy, Eliakim Rubinstein, gave to State Department officials Tuesday, Washington does not have to look further to find where the problem lies; it is right in its own backyard.

The stand that the U.S. administration has adopted towards the proposal for an international conference on the Middle East is no longer ambiguous; Shultz made it clear that Washington has no intention, at this point in time, to accept the proposal when he kept a pointed silence in response to the Soviet call for a Security Council initiative to pave the way for the conference, and reportedly instructed his delegate at the U.N. to reject the call.

Thus, it remains a mystery what the U.S. plans to do, having already said that it does not consider Mubarak's proposal as a peace plan. It would be wishful thinking to hope for American pressure on Shamir to drop his objections to an international conference. If anything, Rubinstein is in Washington not only to reaffirm Shamir's rejection of the conference, but also to convey the Likud leader's opposition to the Mubarak proposal. So, the logical candidate for American pressure is the Arabs. But it would be one of the Reagan administration's gravest mistakes if it sought to convince the Arabs to accept whatever Shamir has in mind for the Palestinian land and people. Enough is enough; we have had more than our share of procrastination from Washington, and it is time the American leadership accepted the reality that if pressure is to be applied it should be on Israel, which undaunted by the international outcry over its oppression of the Palestinian people, appears to be trying to rewrite the history of state-sponsored brutality against a people.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Reaffirmation of strong ties

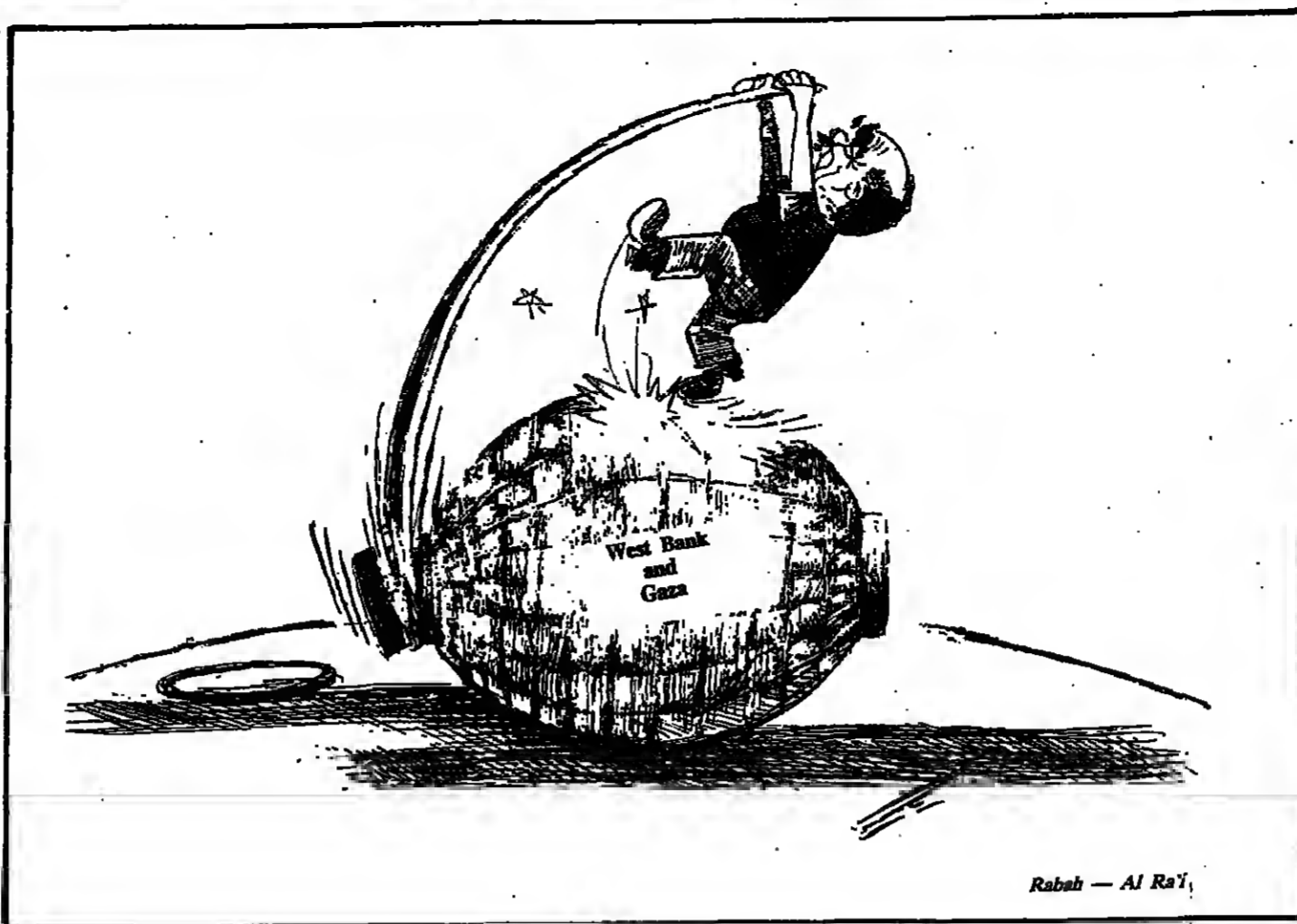
KING Hussein's talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad was a renewed reaffirmation of the strong ties between our two countries. These exemplary ties have been strengthened over the years as the leaders of Iraq and Jordan are keen on building up a solid front and maintaining their coordination in the face of common dangers and challenges. The two leaders reviewed the development in the Gulf conflict and the situation in the occupied Arab territory, and they exchanged views about joint action in confronting these dangers. The two leaders are clearly maintaining the spirit that prevailed during the Amman Arab summit meeting last November, and are acting upon its resolutions which are designed to thwart all enemies expansionist and aggressive plans in the Arab region. In their brief meeting, the two leaders re-examined means for giving more momentum for the implementation of the Arab summit's resolutions and recommendations, and also looked into means for escalating efforts towards ending differences within the Arab family. The two leaders are keen on joint Arab action to defend all parts of the Arab land whether it is in Basra which faces Iran's aggression or Jerusalem where the Israelis are trying to impose their arbitrary rule on the Arab inhabitants. Arab countries have no alternative to joining forces and facing their common enemies with all their might.

Al Dustour: In support of Arab causes

TWO very important questions were on the agenda of King Hussein and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein at their meetings in Baghdad Tuesday. They reviewed the situation in the Gulf region and at the battlefield; and the president assured King Hussein of the solid stand of the Iraqi forces and their determination to thwart all enemy plans. The King expressed the Jordanian peoples' total support for Iraq and its people and armed forces in their efforts to defend their country and Arab soil. The uprising of the Arab people under Israeli rule was the other question tackled by the two leaders who reviewed reactions from different countries to this uprising and continued efforts on the part of the Arab world to abort Israel's plans and to help establish a lasting peace in the region. The question of the international Middle East peace conference is related to the situation in the occupied land; and both countries are agreed that such conference must be held as soon as possible, and that the Arabs must now show all their support for the Soviet Union's new moves at the Security Council to achieve peace. The King's talks in Baghdad came on the eve of the monarch's coming tour of European countries where he aims at enlisting further support for the Arab just causes.

Sawt Al Shaab: In harmony with summit spirit

KING Hussein's talks with President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad were another stage in the on-going consultations between the two leaders in harmony with the resolutions and the spirit of the Amman Arab summit. The resolutions had called for the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolution 598 to end the Gulf conflict and also the convening of an international conference to bring peace to the Middle East. The King and the president are keen on the implementation of these resolutions and also keen on maintaining Arab solidarity which can guarantee their implementation. The King's talks with the president were important, coming on the eve of the King's coming tour of European countries where he is expected to discuss the Gulf and the Middle East issues.



Rabat — Al Ra'i

ADC blasts CBS movie 'Terrorist On Trial'

THE American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) has issued a strong protest to CBS Vice-President/Programme Practices George Dessart concerning the content of "Terrorist On Trial: The United States vs. Salim Ajami," first broadcasted Sunday, Jan. 10, at 8:00 p.m. The film is a fictional account of the capture and trial of a Palestinian charged with conspiracy to murder American civilians in Spain.

"It is our contention that the George Englund production, which purports to be about the American system of justice, makes its point at the expense of Palestinians and Arabs in general. 'Terrorist On Trial' defames and scapegoats an entire ethnic group in the name of entertainment," an ADC official said last week. This point is underscored by the complete absence of any positive Arab character of any significance to offset the evil Ajami. Nowhere in this film is a more moderate case made for the legitimacy of Palestinian claims to the 'right of self-determination.' As has been the case for decades, the creators of 'Terrorist On Trial' have failed to apply the widely accepted industry standard of balance to members of our ethnic group.

To the contrary, "Terrorist On Trial" will make Americans fearful of Palestinians and suspicious of all Arabs. Palestinian students in the U.S. often do participate in rallies to support Palestinian nationalism and to protest Israeli human rights violations but they have never been known to rally in

support of terrorism as depicted in George Englund's film. Nor would the League of Arab States show any interest in the welfare of an accused terrorist. To suggest otherwise is to engage in slanderous innuendo and guilt by association that paints all Arabs with the same brushstroke of defamation.

We find it equally disturbing that the producers of the film have virtually omitted any negative references to Israeli repression as a motivating factor for Ajami's violence. Such an omission is consistent with Hollywood's historic hypocrisy vis-a-vis subjects having to do with the Middle East. Just as not a single American congressman or senator had the courage to publicly condemn the Israeli shooting of Palestinian demonstrators in Gaza in the last few weeks, Hollywood producers continue to avoid any negative references to Israel in their films. "Terrorist On Trial" is just one more in a series of "propaganda" films that would have the American public believe that Arabs, be they Palestinian or other, have an irrational hatred for America for reasons that are best left unarticulated. We find such blatant self-censorship and Arab-bashing unacceptable.

CBC claim

If, as CBS claims, "Terrorist On Trial" is indeed a film about the workings of the American judicial system then would it not

have been just as effective to have portrayed a non-ethnic terrorist from a fictitious group or country? The enormously popular TV series "Mission Impossible" used just such an approach very successfully.

If, as George Englund claims, the film is about the root causes of Palestinian terrorism then why was Alan Dershowitz, a well-known apologist for Israeli policy, hired as a consultant to devise a credible Palestinian defence? Coming on the heels of the highly publicised and brutal Israeli repression of the Gaza uprising, many viewers of this film might find it odd that Israel is on the back burner of Ajami's rage. Terrorism by anyone and towards any end is abhorrent. However, if one is going to explore the causes of such violence one should, at the very least, honestly portray the problem. In this instance the producers have used unacceptable restraint and, in so doing, have left out the most important part of the story: Israel.

While it is true that producer George Englund did consult with ADC regarding the script, our input was cosmetic in nature. Some of our suggestions were accepted but none affected the basic premise of the film. As George Englund himself stated at a press conference in New York last November, "the understanding (with ADC) was that the substance of the drama was not at issue, but we wanted to be absolutely clear about anything that was technical or matters of clarification and procedure." While we appreciate Mr. Englund's efforts we feel that they were too late in coming. Our main concern had to do, in fact, with the substance of "Terrorist On Trial." If one is going to give a Palestinian a forum to air his grievances then we ask that expression be honest. To do otherwise is tantamount to making a film about South Africa without mentioning apartheid.

ADC calls upon the Hollywood community to abandon its use of negative Arab stereotypes to the exclusion of any positive images. We challenge CBS or any other network to come up with a single positive Arab character in any film, dramatic series, or situation comedy in the last twenty years. We maintain that there are none and that Arabs have the dubious distinction of being the only ethnic group that has consistently and relentlessly been ridiculed, vilified and insulted. "Terrorist On Trial" continues that tradition.

ADC has called upon its national membership to monitor "Terrorist On Trial" and then to express its views to local CBS affiliates, to CBS Entertainment President Kim Le Masters and to the national sponsors of the broadcast. We hope that by so doing, we will be able to generate a definitive debate on the subject of Hollywood's refusal to apply the concept of "balance" — the off-setting of negative ethnic characters with positive ones to subject matter having to do with Arabs.

Cautious optimism on Turco-Greek ties

By John Owen-Davies
Reuter

ANKARA — Ten months after war drums echoed across the Aegean Sea, the prime ministers of Turkey and Greece are to meet in Switzerland for talks likely to determine the future course of ties between their countries. "I am expecting the start of a sincere and good-willed dialogue. I would hope that with patient follow-up after this meeting... we can achieve some results," Turkey's Turgut Ozal said of his meeting this weekend with Andreas Papandreu.

Papandreu has said the talks, during an economic seminar in Davos on January 30-31, could lead to a change in ties. "An effort for warming relations can be foreseen," he said.

Both sides are showing great caution, born of deep-rooted lack of trust, over hard bargaining likely to follow the talks.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The two countries, members of the NATO Western alliance, have long been at odds over territorial, mineral and other rights in the Aegean, as well as over divided Cyprus.

Rival threats to start oil exploration in disputed Aegean waters brought them close to war in March 1987. Ties have thawed since then with message exchanges between Ozal and Papandreu.

Turkey hopes a dialogue will reduce Greek opposition to its drive for full membership of the European Community.

Formal talks expected

Political sources say Davos could lead to formal talks between Ozal and Papandreu, who last met at the same economic gathering in 1986 but only shook hands.

The last formal meeting at this level was in 1978, involving Turkey's Bulent Ecevit and Greece's Constantine Karamanlis.

Turkey may offer at some stage to abolish a controversial 1964 decree that suspended ownership on property in Turkey belonging to Greek nationals, the sources said.

Scrapping the decree with retroactive effect is believed to be a condition by EC member Greece for it to sign EC-Turkey financial protocols. Turkey is an EC associate.

"When we look back at the issues between us we see that a long time has elapsed and things have accumulated," Ozal told the left-leaning daily Cumhuriyet.

"It will not be easy to solve all these. But if we can start a dialogue and advance gradually by solving issues starting with the easier ones, this can be a significant result."

So-called easier issues include tourism, trade and easier access to Turkey for Greek workers. "Turkey cannot have a chauvinistic attitude on such subjects any more," he said.

Papandreu has indicated he will put forward the issue of the Aegean continental shelf.

Greek government spokesman Sotiris Kostopoulos said Athens' position on disputed Aegean areas had not changed. It wants the issue taken to the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

The Davos talks have been preceded by verbal sparring over the Aegean, evoking memories of March last year. Turkey, responding to a Greek statement that any moves by Athens to extend its territorial waters in the Aegean to 12 nautical miles from six was a purely Greek affair, said it would "take every measure" to defend its rights and interests.

Greece, which controls most of the 2,500 Aegean islands, wants both sides to ask The Hague to rule where the continental shelf divide runs between Turkey's coast and nearby Greek isles.

Turkey has said it would agree to take the issue to The Hague, provided Greece agreed to direct negotiations.

sean issues are inter-related. It believes the present state of affairs is against every logic.

Cyprus a big question

Cyprus is a major question that will have to be addressed at some stage by both sides if ties are to improve dramatically.

Turkish Cypriots unilaterally declared the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus in 1983, nine years after Turkish troops secured the northern third of the island after

a coup inspired by the military junta then ruling Greece.

Rauf Denktaş, leader of the breakaway republic, recognised only by Turkey, said: "We are not pinning our hopes for the future on this (Davos meeting) but I think it is a good and helpful thing that it is taking place."

Sounding a note of caution over Davos, the Greek pro-government newspaper Ta Nea said: "Greek-Turkish differences by their nature do not offer much room for negotiation."

Christ redeems Golda Meir

An irregular column by Waleed Sadi

ALI, a Palestinian Arab living in East Jerusalem, was having a chat with his old friend Moshe, an Israeli living in West Jerusalem over a cup of Turkish coffee the other day just before a curfew was imposed on East Jerusalem in the wake of the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They had not seen one another since the outbreak of the Palestinian revolt, and for the initial few moments their friendship seemed strained, due to what happened between Israelis and Palestinians over the past five weeks. As they slipped coffee, both could sense their former informality and warmth give way to formality and coolness. There was tension in the air. They both waited for the first opportunity to break the ice that seemed to have formed over their relations. Ali took the initiative. Being rich with metaphorical expression, he thought of using the latest fable which had gained currency among the Palestinians to warm up their chilly encounter.

"You remember your late Prime Minister Golda Meir of course," Ali remarked to Moshe. "And you may even recall better the reputation that she had earned as a 'Palestinian hater'." Moshe nodded his head, and wanting to join in the conversation, added: "Golda earned her credentials among many Israelis when she remarked, 'who are the Palestinians?' We all remember her words."

"Fine," replied Ali. "Let me now tell you my little story. When Golda died, her soul lifted to the sky and was met by Jesus Christ who wanted to have a chat with her about her past mortal life. Jesus Christ tried in vain to strike up a conversation with Golda, who would not utter a word. Becoming exasperated by not being able to get through to Golda, Jesus Christ asked an angel to intercede on his behalf, and to find out why Golda would not talk to him. The Angel obliged and quizzed Golda. He came back and reported to Jesus Christ the results of his investigations. 'Golda,' he told Jesus, 'would not talk to you because she says you are a Palestinian'."

Moshe did not know whether to laugh or to show anger. But he soon showed signs that he comprehended the moral of the story. "But we are not talking to one another, Moshe challenged Ali. "You are a Palestinian and I am an Israeli and we have been talking with one another for years, ever since we occupied your lands." Ali listened impatiently and finally interrupted Moshe's words. "Yes, Moshe," Ali answered. "We have been talking to one another throughout the past twenty years. But is it not obvious that you have been hearing us but not listening?" He also explained the breakdown of communications between our two peoples? You see, Moshe, you always heard us but never listened to us. Don't you see, Moshe, there can never be real 'talking' between the free and the enslaved for over four decades you have denied us recognition and for two decades you have occupied our lands, enslaved our people, and humiliated our aspirations to be free and noble. Even our friendship can never be a true one unless we are both free. It was getting darker outside and Moshe wanted to get home before the curfew in Ali's neighbourhood. They bid farewell to one another, promising to meet again. This time, Moshe said, as they exchanged kisses on each other's cheeks, "when you talk I promise to listen to you more carefully."

"Sure, Ali replied, "I would not have it any other way."

LETTERS

Not the whole truth

To the Editor:

I READ with enthusiasm Dr. Ahmad Majdoub's guest column: "The truth about the Yarmouk graduates" (Jordan Times issue of Jan. 27).

As one of the Yarmouk University graduates, I hold great respect to Dr. Majdoub as an outstanding faculty member of the Yarmouk University's English Language Department. However, Dr. Majdoub's article did not reveal the whole truth. I do agree with him that the allegations made against the university's standard of teachings are unfair and unrealistic. I also agree with the figures that Dr. Majdoub quoted. But I still think that he missed some points.

He did not mention anything about "favouritism" accorded students by some faculty members, a phenomenon that is less obvious in the English Language Department than others.

He did not, for example, mention anything about "push ups". This is a practice by which a faculty member would "raise" all the grades of his class to increase the number of passing students. This is not the only way being used to "beautify" the image of a faculty. Some faculty members go even further. They cancel a low-grade mid-term exam and replace it by another. This is fair to say that the university and its facilities do take into consideration students' remarks on the evaluation system, and also take into account students' choice of subjects.

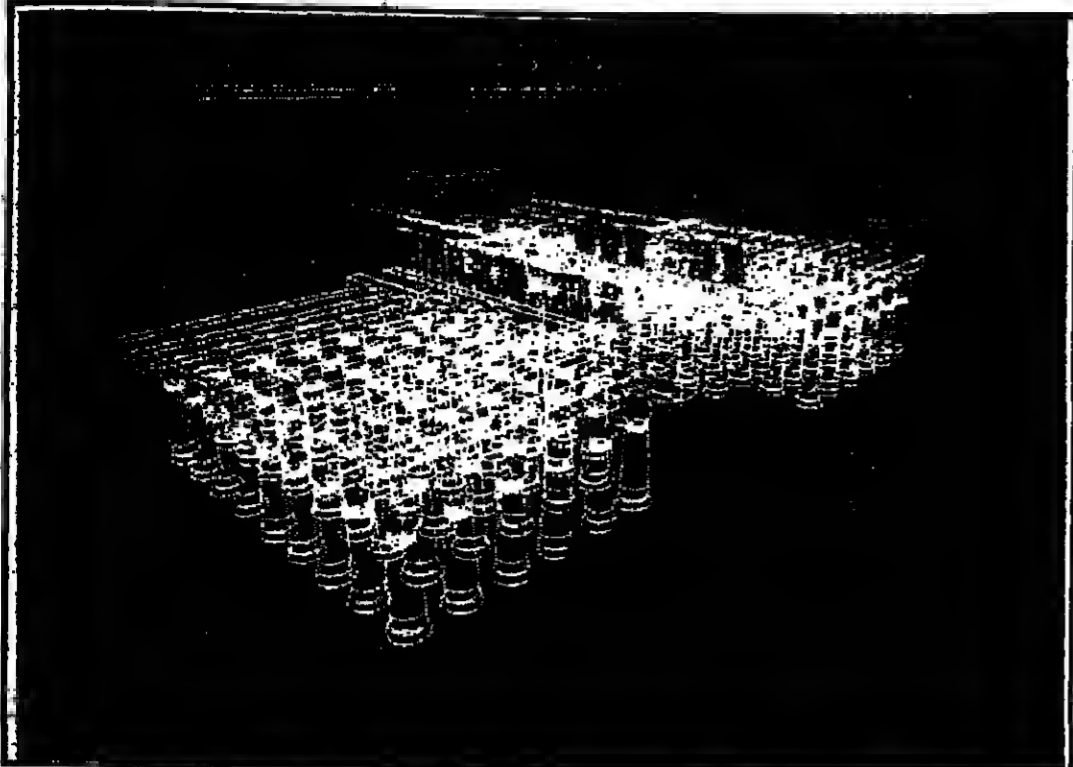
On the other hand, the multiple choice type questions that many professors opt to provide enough room for cheating and most of the time produce false results.

Finally, to be fair with the university, I must point out that during my 4-year study at the university I noticed the remarkable progress that the university has made and I only hope that it will rise to the expectations of its professors and students to be one of the most distinguished universities in the region.

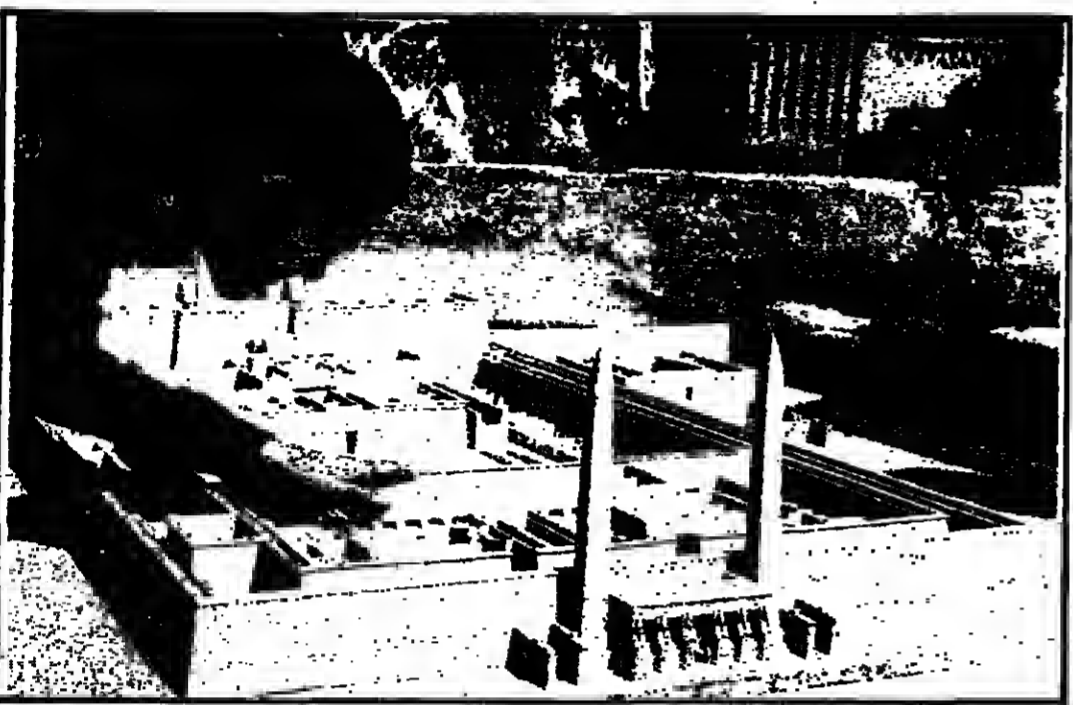
Samir Hourani
Amman

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فكرنا على الجدل



(Above) a computer graphic design of Karnak's hall of columns, and (below) a model of the Karnak temple



The builders of Karnak

By Frederic Seigneur

THE EGYPTIAN site of Karnak, dedicated to the god Amun, forms the greatest group of temples ever built on the banks of the Nile. In 1967, the Antiquities Organisation at the Egyptian Ministry of Culture, together with two French bodies, the National Scientific Research Centre (CNRS) and the Cultural Relations Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, decided to create a Franco-Egyptian Centre in Karnak. This centre, which was a further element in the already long collaboration between the two countries, was created for the purpose of "pursuing the archaeological study of the site, scientifically searching for the origin of the disintegration of materials, and developing restoration processes adapted to the various kinds of degradation. The aim of this research is notably to enable consolidation and restoration work to be carried out."

For 20 years, French and Egyptian researchers have thus been working side by side in this prestigious place, with its great accumulation of temples, chapels, pylons obelisks, and whose most impressive element is the great hypostyle hall 300 metres by 130.

The exhibition recently held in Paris at the Luxembourg Museum and called "The Builders of Karnak: From the Pharaohs to today" was organised to celebrate the 20th anniversary of this centre.

The origins of Karnak are very ancient. Building first began at least as far back as Sesostri I who ruled over Egypt at the end of the 20th century B.C. For 2,000 years, the pharaohs who succeeded him went on beautifying, enlarging, and destroying earlier buildings. Each sovereign had to build in honour of his "divine father" Amun. In exchange, the god was supposed to confer life, stability and strength on his "eldest son." So buildings were barely finished, before they were demolished to make space for new creations. However, each of the stones previously used was considered sacred, so, far from being destroyed, it was reused and incorporated in the new buildings.

This shows the complexity of the work of archaeologists today. The scattered blocks have to be inventoried and the way they used to fit together has to be found. The work of this enormous jigsaw-puzzle has been revolutionised by the arrival of the

computer, which is now a new and indispensable tool for the Egyptologist. Thanks to computer-assisted design (C.A.D.), it is possible to recreate (in this case thanks to the French electricity company EDF) certain frescoes, or to index and show the different buildings constructed at Karnak at different periods, in the form of three-dimensional pictures from all possible angles.

Among the top specialists in this vast temple are the Egyptians El Sayed Hegazi, Abd El Hamid Maarouf and Farag Abd El Motleb, as well as the Frenchmen Jean-Claude Golvin and Jean-Claude Goyon, who recently wrote a book called "The Builders of Karnak" (Les Bâtisseurs de Karnak), published by the Presses CNRS. This book presents the different buildings and their determining religious dimension. It describes the restoration processes used to fight the "leprosy" of the stone, before going on to the techniques used by the architects of Ancient Egypt. These had to be particularly developed, as chanting crowds of workers had to perch stone lintels, weighing several dozen tons, at the tops of columns over twenty metres high — L'Actualité en France.

Peace on Earth to people of goodwill

The following appeal was prepared by an informal meeting of a committee of church leaders in Jerusalem during last week. It was agreed to and signed by the heads of the Greek Orthodox, the Latin (Roman Catholic), Armenian, Greek Catholic (Melkite), Anglican, Syrian Catholic, Syrian Orthodox, and the Lutheran Churches. It was presented to four Arabic language newspapers in the West Bank on Friday evening for publication on Saturday. The Israeli censors prohibited its publication.

TO ALL our sons and daughters, our sisters and brothers in the Holy Land.

Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glorifies glory in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practise kindness, justice, and righteousness in the earth; for in these things I delight, says the Lord."

Jeremiah 9:23-24

The recent painful events in our land which have resulted in so many victims, both killed and wounded, are a clear indication of the grievous suffering of our people on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. They are also a visible expression of our people's aspirations to achieve their legal rights and the realisation of their hopes.

We, the Heads of the Christian Communities in Jerusalem, would like to express in all honest

ty and clarity that we take our stand with truth and justice against all forms of injustice, and oppression. We stand with the suffering and the oppressed, we stand with the refugees and the deported, with the distressed and the victims of injustice, we stand with those who mourn and are bereaved, with the hungry and the poor. In accordance with the word of God through the Prophet Isaiah, chapter 1, verse 17:

"Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow."

We call upon the faithful to pray and to labour for justice and peace for all the people of our area.

And in response to the same word of God, prompted by our faith in God and our Christian duty, we have decided to call upon all our sons and daughters who are, with us, an integral part of the people of this Holy Land who are labouring and witnessing for justice and peace, to give expression to what we feel we ought to do in these ways:

1. We call upon all our sons and daughters to pray for justice and peace for our land and for all its peoples throughout this Week of Prayer, Sunday, 24 January, to Sunday, 31 January 1988.

2. We call upon faithful Christians to dedicate next Friday, 29 January 1988, as a day of fasting and self-denial, identifying ourselves with our brothers and sisters in the camps on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.

We request you to give what

you thus save towards the support of our needy brothers and sisters, remembering that Friday speaks to us of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, of his crucifixion, and of his death to redeem all humanity.

3. We have resolved to set apart Sunday, 31 January 1988, in all the churches of our various communities as a day of prayer and preaching when fervent prayer will be offered in the regular worship services that justice and peace may be realised in our land, so that all may live there in safety, security and peace. At the end of these services, donations towards the support of our needy brothers and sisters will be collected.

We solemnly charge the Christian faithful to fill the churches by their presence and actively to contribute to the success of what we intend to do, praying that God may inspire and direct all leaders and people in authority to bring to reality what all of us hope and work for so that the foundations of truth, justice and peace may be firmly laid in our beloved part of the world.

Therefore, we again state unequivocally that all our Christian churches in this country, standing together, seek real peace based on justice and which will never be established unless every person's rights are fully respected; only when this happens will crises cease, peace permeate our country, and the song of the angels on the birthday of Jesus Christ, "the King of peace," be a reality. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men."

Female fetuses aborted because of Indian obsession for sons

By Dev Varam

Reuters

BOMBAY — Venkatesh sat on the edge of the seat, his fingers nervously tapping the table as the geneticist examined his pregnant wife.

Venkatesh had brought Gauri-bai 250 kilometres to Bombay from their home in Sholapur to learn whether she was carrying a son or daughter before such prenatal sex-determination tests are banned in private hospitals in India's Maharashtra State.

The ban is aimed at preventing the deliberate abortion of female fetuses, which Indian newspapers estimate happens 36 times a day in this country of 800 million where having sons is an obsession.

"We want a male child," 35-year-old Venkatesh said in an interview, adding irritably: "We already have four daughters and we can't afford to have one more."

Gauri-bai, speaking softly, said everybody, including her in-laws and parents, wanted her to produce a son to carry on the family business and name.

"In India women are under psychological pressure to produce a son," said Hema Purandare, the geneticist who runs the birth defects centre in Bombay, one of about 250 such clinics in India's commercial capital.

Purandare said the proposed restrictions on amniocentesis tests announced by the Maharashtra government on New Year's eve had intensified efforts by some couples to conceive in advance of the deadline, which officials say may be still six to 12 months away.

Women's groups have welcomed the move, but say that unless India passes a similar law nationwide, clinics will just shift their operations to neighbouring states.

Amniocentesis was introduced in India in 1974 for detecting genetic disorders in unborn children, but increasingly it has been used for sex-testing and as the basis for deciding whether to have an abortion. Abortion on demand was legalised in 1971.

Government action followed a study by the centre for education and documentation, a privately-funded group, which said that of 8,000 abortions performed at six city clinics all but one were of female fetuses.

According to Indian newspapers, between 1978 and 1983 about 78,000 female fetuses were aborted in India after sex tests.

"It is the case of a good test getting a bad name," said gynaecologist Sharda Gogate. "In recent years it has fallen into the hands of unscrupulous and ill-qualified people."

Gogate blamed what he called "female foeticide" on the obsession for male children, which often makes Hindu couples turn to counsel *sadhus* or holy men.

Women always blamed

"The woman is always blamed if she fails to conceive a male child. Men desert wives or marry for the second time only to have sons," Gogate said.

To traditional Hindus, the birth of a male child acquires a semi-religious aura. He will grow up to support the family, perpetuate its name, light his parents' funeral pyre when they die and

perform rituals for their souls.

A female child is considered a burden to parents who can be left financially ruined after providing an expensive dowry and lavish wedding for their daughter.

"A male child is like a long-term investment and couples in need of one would not mind spending money on tests to make sure of it," said Gogate. "In our own study of about 3,000 pregnant women, only one showed preference for a daughter."

The amniocentesis test, and abortion if wanted, cost 1,000 to 2,500 rupees (\$75 to \$190) — a fraction of what many families would spend in marrying off a

daughter.

At least one doctor has come out openly to criticise the proposed ban.

Datta Pai, who runs Bombay's biggest abortion centre and strongly supports the use of amniocentesis for sex-determination, said legislation would not stop the killing of female fetuses.

There was even a danger, he said, that more and more couples might resort to murdering unwanted baby girls after birth.

"What is needed is social education. The ban will only push aside the law-abiding medical community and encourage quacks," he said.

Randa Habib's Corner

Empty lots

ONE of the great achievements of the Municipality of Greater Amman was the fencing, in the past two years or so, of most of the empty lots in the city.

Empty lots are most of the time, not only dirty, but full with piles of rubbish. Rubbish and dirt overflowing from them damage asphalted roads.

When it rains, stones and mud from these vacant spaces pour into the streets, causing a mess on the roads. While that problem has been eased within the limits of the city of Amman, it has not been the case in the suburbs. In Sweifich, Tlaa Al Ali, Bayader Wadi Al Seer, and many other parts of Greater Amman this problem still persists.

As the suburbs are now part of Greater Amman, owners of empty lots, must be asked to fence their lands in order to protect the roads. The municipality itself could do the job and then levy the cost from the owners.

Heavy rain and storms have transformed most of the roads in these areas into muddy places with small lakes scattered here and there. Bearing in mind that asphalted streets are rare jewels in the suburbs, and that more empty lots are there than in Amman, where buildings cover most of the land, one realises how urgent it is for the municipality to take action.

Since residents in suburbs have waited for a long time to have their roads asphalted it will be a pity that they would not enjoy them long enough, as they are being damaged in rainy days by stones and mud, pouring from the empty lots.

Archaeology for scholar

Al Rabadah: A portrait of early Islamic civilisation in Saudi Arabia

By Dr. Sa'ad Al Rashid

Longman, London 1986, £40.00

THAT an English public still remains fascinated by what it imagines Arab life to be was evidenced by the tremendous popularity of the "Riyadh — the Saudi experience" exhibition in London. The portrait is probably closer to their conception than the ultra-modern, hi-tech Riyadh of today.

Al Rabadah flourished from 630 until its destruction in 931, but its essential civilisation continued on the peninsula for another thousand years. The town lay on the Darb Zubaydah, the pilgrim road linking the cultural and political centres of Islam in Iraq to its ritual core in Arabia. Regrettably the book fails to present the portrait in a way that is accessible to the non-specialist. Based upon a series of six excavations, it is neither an archaeological report — six academic volumes are to come — nor an informative coffee table book, though it looks like one. The documentary history with its wealth of footnotes and source references is for scholars alone. The archaeological sections have much fascinating information but

suffer from some confused photography, odd captions and plans that have been reduced to the point of absurdity. The finds are attractively presented, but with very few indications of scale on the blank backgrounds it is difficult to guess the size of the object in view.

BOOK REVIEW

What has gone wrong? The expense that must have gone into this work will be the envy of many authors and archaeologists alike. There are nearly 300 colour photographs alone, all doubled, as this is a bilingual edition — printed on thick glossy paper. The team from the King Saud University will doubtless produce excellent volumes on the site for the archaeological record, but in writing for a wider audience they should have had some firm editorial direction from their publishers, who have failed them in not identifying a public — Middle East International, London.

Hal Bishop

World greenhouse is too hot and too dirty, crops are in peril

By Peter Millership

Reuters

LONDON — The global greenhouse is too hot and too dirty and this may imperil mankind's future food supply, a new independent study says.

The hope, adds the 1988 world commodity outlook from the London-based Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), is that science can come up with radical new ideas to maintain bumper harvests despite abrupt changes in the weather likely to be caused by pollution — the so-called "greenhouse" effect.

"Clearly, we are entering an age of huge uncertainty, since we are creating conditions unprecedented throughout man's brief existence on this planet," said the EIU, part of the Economist group which includes the Economist weekly.

Last year's EIU commodity report focused on the problems of plenty and the paradox of Third World children starving even in times of world surplus.

This year, the EIU concerned itself with pointing out how these surpluses are at the mercy of climate, arguing that worse-than-expected weather which hit northern hemisphere grain and Asian rice crops in 1987 were a timely reminder.

It also noted drought in Africa. Prices of rice in Asia and of soybeans in India rose because of bad weather but ample stocks of

the affected commodities meant there were no big shortages.

Changing climate

"It could be unwise," the report went on, "to dismiss the setbacks of 1987 as the result of one season's aberrantly unfavourable weather."

"Although there is far from being a scientific consensus on the subject, we must entertain the possibility that long-term changes in the world's climate are in hand."

The release of carbon dioxide by burning fossil fuels has warmed the atmosphere, and pollution has dirtied it, making for uncertain weather patterns. The discovery of a hole in the ozone layer over the Antarctic also spells unstable weather.

In the northern hemisphere, the EIU said, farming may not be faced with 50 years or a century in which to adapt to change, by abandoning some crops, substituting others and devising new strains.

"More probably, it will have to operate in an environment that offers confusing indications of what long-term adaptation is necessary, in which bountiful yields in one year are followed by disaster in another."

"It should provide commodity traders with the active markets they thrive on, but it will be not much fun for farmers," it added.

The answer lay with science. "It remains reasonable to hope that scientific advance will be adequate to ensure in the short term that yields go on rising in years when weather is favourable and in the longer term that agriculture is able to adapt globally to permanent changes in the climate," the report said.

It added it would be helpful if North America and Western Europe, which are now able to produce far more food than they can eat or sell, could distribute their surpluses more widely.

But the developing world's rural poor have to grow food because they have no money with which to buy it.

The EIU was further concerned that science can itself risk long-term damage. Industrial nations relied too heavily on chemical inputs of fertiliser, pesticides and herbicides which are ecologically damaging, while the "green revolution" in rice production was based on increased use of fertiliser.

The EIU said it was therefore necessary to raise yields by biological rather than chemical means, and that genetic engineering — the transference of inherited characteristics — held grounds for optimism.

"There is surely enough news promising increased productive capacity for us to journey into an unknown climate with a view of the future some way this side of despair," the report said.



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Graf, Becker win exhibition matches

OSAKA (R) — World number one Steffi Graf of West Germany, fresh from her triumph at the Australian Open Championships, coasted to a 6-0, 6-1 win over Argentine Gabriela Sabatini in an exhibition match Wednesday.

Graf, unleashing powerful serves and forehand strokes, had no difficulty winning the match in less than 40 minutes before a crowd of 5,100 on an indoor court.

Sabatini, ranked sixth in the world, held her serve in the fourth game of the second set to prevent a complete humiliation.

In a men's exhibition match, Boris Becker of West Germany, back after a knee injury, comfortably beat world number one Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia 6-3, 1-6, 6-2.

The match was the West German's first appearance since he was beaten by Lendl and failed to reach the semifinals of the Masters tournament in New York last month.

Becker, ranked fourth in the world, took one hour 28 minutes to defeat Lendl and said afterwards he was 90 per cent recovered from his ligament injury.

Becker told reporters he had his sights set on another Wimbledon victory after his triumphs in 1985 and 1986.

week in Mainz said Wednesday he had cancelled the event because he had been led to believe Graf would not be taking part.

Tournament director Peter Dinkels said sponsorship of the new event depended on the participation of Graf, who won the Australian Open title in Melbourne last week.

He said he was forced to cancel it after being told Monday that she would not play.

But the player's father and manager Peter Graf said she had never entered the tournament, which was to have taken place not far from her home in South-West Germany.

"Perhaps I have been too naive about this," Dinkels said. "Steffi said herself in December that she would be playing. Mr. Graf has never denied press reports that she would come. So everything was clear as far as I was concerned."

He said Graf had not officially entered the tournament, whose top seed was Nathalie Tauziat of France, but that a wild card had been reserved for her.

Peter Graf said: "We never agreed to take part so we don't have to withdraw."

He said his 18-year-old daughter was in no condition to play in any case. "Steffi flew from hot Australia to cold Japan for two exhibition matches and has caught a heavy cold. She won't be back until Sunday and for her to play the next day would be irresponsible."

Graf has come under fire in the past from world number two Martina Navratilova and others for making late changes in her playing schedule.

The Women's International Tennis Association (WITA) said Tuesday it was infuriating for a tournament to be cancelled so late.

Executive director Merrett Stierman said that from next year promoters would have to pay their bonus pool commitment and 15 per cent of the prize money six months before the tournament.

Dinkels said he expected to forfeit \$7,000 already paid to WITA.

'Graf blamed for cancelled tournament'

BONN (R) — The organiser of the \$100,000 women's tennis tournament scheduled for next



Germany vs. Italy — Franz Beckenbauer, German team boss (centre), showed himself to be in a very good mood and cock of the walk when the hostesses for the European Football Championships 1988 showed off their uniforms in Frankfurt. He had somewhat less to laugh about when the results of the draw were made known with Germany in Group A against Italy, Spain and Denmark (Photo by DAD/dpa)

U.S. basketball roundup

Knicks bag 122 to beat New Jersey

NEW YORK (AP) — Mark Jackson matched his season high with 22 points and broke a 38-year-old team record for assists by a rookie as the New York Knicks defeated New Jersey 122-101. It was the Nets' 17th consecutive road loss this season.

In the game in New York, Jackson had seven assists, raising his season total to 388, two more than Dick McGuire had as a rookie for New York in 1949-50.

Gerald Wilkins led New York with 23 points and Patrick Ewing had 18.

Pacers 97, Bulls 93

Chuck Person sank two free throws with seven seconds left to ensure the Indiana Pacers' 97-93 victory over the Chicago Bulls. The Bulls, who have now lost nine straight Road Games, trailed by 14 at halftime and four entering the fourth quarter. But Chicago used a 13-3 run, with Michael Jordan scoring nine, to go up 87-85 on Jordan's free throw with 4:50 to play.

In the game in Indianapolis, Pearson paced Indiana with 19 points.

Mavericks 128, Spurs 111

Mark Aguirre scored 24 points, including his 12,000th career NBA point, to lead the Dallas Mavericks to their fifth straight victory, a 128-111 triumph over San Antonio.

In the game in Dallas, reserve Detlef Schrempf had a season-high 22 points and Roy Tarpley added 20 as Dallas enjoyed its highest scoring night of the year.

Sonics 116, Kings 100

Dale Ellis scored 42 points and became the first NBA player to have two 4-point plays in a game as he led the Seattle SuperSonics to a 116-100 victory over the Sacramento Kings.

In the game in Sacramento, Ellis hit a 3-point basket followed by a foul shot twice in the first half.

Lakers 111, Jazz 100

Magic Johnson scored five of his 22 points in the final 2:10 as the Los Angeles Lakers survived a late Utah Rally and stretched their homecourt winning streak to 10 games with a 111-100 victory over the Jazz.

Noah to play for France

PARIS (R) — Former French Open champion Yannick Noah will play his first Davis Cup tennis match for France in over a year against Switzerland next month, the French Tennis Federation said Tuesday.

Noah returns to the team after Jean-Paul Lotz resigned from the post of non-playing captain this month. Numerous reports in France said Lotz quit following pressure for a change from Noah and team-mate Henri Leconte.

Noah last played for his country in a defeat by Yugoslavia in Belgrade in October 1985 which cost France their First Division place and which he described as the biggest disappointment of his career.

Noah and Leconte were reported to have buried past differences in their united desire for change following a French slump after reaching the Davis Cup final in 1982.

The French team, now back in the Davis Cup Championship Division, will face Switzerland in Basle from Feb. 5 to 7 with Noah, Leconte, Guy Forget and Tarik Benhabiles.

The French Tennis Federation said Thierry Tulasne could replace Benhabiles, depending on results in a charity tournament this week in Mulhouse.

Lotz said at the Australian open last week he has resigned for the good of French tennis.

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Piggott recovers

NORWICH, England (AP) — A former champion jockey Lester Piggott was reported resting comfortably in a prison hospital Tuesday as doctors tried to find what caused him to collapse in his jail cell.

Piggott, who is serving a three-year sentence for tax fraud, was admitted to the hospital wing of Norwich prison Monday.

The home office, which oversees Britain's prisons, refused comment on the case. But Press Association, Britain's domestic news agency, quoted unidentified sources as saying Piggott had spent a quiet night and was being kept under observation.

Piggott collapsed Sunday night at highpoint prison in Sturminster, Dorset, and was rushed to hospital for treatment.

Budd to face anti-apartheid protests

LONDON (R) — South African-born Zola Budd faces protests when she runs in the British trials for the World Cross-Country Championships Saturday, anti-apartheid campaigners said Wednesday.

"She must expect growing protests whenever and wherever she competes," said Karen Talbot, campaigns organiser of Britain's Anti-Apartheid Movement.

But athletics officials said former world champion Budd, who has held a British passport since 1984, would not bow to pressure to withdraw from the Gateshead trials.

Soviets to fight in Seoul boxing

SEOUL (AP) — The Soviet Union says it will send nine boxers to compete in the 1988 Seoul Cup International Boxing, scheduled March 14-20, the organisers said Wednesday.

The organisers said the Soviet Union sent a cable early this week saying that its boxers would compete in nine of the 12 weight divisions — all but the feather, welter and lightweight classes.

The Soviet entries include Akopkokhyan Ismail, the middleweight gold medalist in the 1985 World Cup Boxing in Seoul, the organisers said.

They said Seoul Cup Boxing is expected to draw about 200 boxers from 15 countries, including the United States, East Germany, Bulgaria, Hungary, China and Taiwan.

Nigeria to introduce professional soccer in '89

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria says it will introduce professional soccer next year to raise the standard of the game in country.

"Professional football in Nigeria is now a reality and it is to take off in February 1989," Sports Minister Bayo Lawal announced in Lagos Monday.

He said the military government would pass a law soon to back the scheme and the time gap was to allow for an implementation committee to make arrangements for its smooth take-off.

Soccer administrators say professional football would enable Nigeria to retain at home many of its soccer stars currently playing abroad especially in Europe.

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Soviet Union to join IBA

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union will join the International Baseball Association (IBA) in March, the official TASS news agency reported Wednesday.

TASS said IBA president Robert Smith of the United States had met Soviet baseball organisers for three days in Moscow to help the recently-formed Soviet Baseball Federation prepare to become a member of the international body.

It said three Soviet baseball players would go to the United States for advanced training next month, and four American specialists would arrive in the Soviet Union in the summer to teach Soviet coaches the fine points of the game.

Mercedes to return to racing

STUTTGART, West Germany (AP) — A Daimler-Benz, maker of luxury Mercedes cars, plans to return to the auto racing circuit this year after more than 30 years, a company spokesman said Tuesday.

The company announced that it would compete in Group A Touring Cars Races, with emphasis on the sporty 190E type models, and Group C prototype sports cars.

"The decision was based on the expressed interest of local and foreign customers in a racing representation, especially in the 190E type cars," said Werner Niefer, chief of Daimler-Benz's automobile division.

"At the same time it is our declared goal to prove our ability to compete in motorsport racing," Niefer said.

In the Group C, Daimler-Benz will enter two C9 prototype racers, with Mercedes 5-liter V8 engines.

THE Daily Crossword

by CF Murray

ACROSS

1. Hum cake
2. Quahog
3. Surplus
4. Outcome
5. "Planet of the..."
6. "Dawn Yankov"
7. TNT part
8. Sphere
9. Bakery item
10. Exploding star
11. Bird beat
12. Shearer
13. Discourager
14. Carried on
15. Pavarotti for one
16. Eng. naval hero
17. Pulverize
18. Cheese
19. "Pa..."
20. Against
21. Photography solution
22. Fr. city
23. Temptress
24. Normandy town
25. — small world
26. Splitter
27. Seal
28. "The Eve of St. Agnes"
29. Short street sign
30. Slice
31. Reverence
32. Pursue
33. Holdings
34. Stack
35. Nuisance
36. Sweet-talks
37. The Rara
38. Boor
39. Field
40. Cove
41. Old threat
42. Long hair
43. Swiss city

DOWN

1. Swiss city
2. Quickly
3. Beauty
4. Movie dog
5. Goodman's instrument
6. Moo
7. Author Mifne
8. Koch or Bradley
9. Clear up
10. Bakery item
11. Doesn't budge
12. A Gardner
13. Vault
14. King's title
15. Track
16. Nuisance
17. Draw out
18. Steel
19. Carries on
20. Uncloses to a pool
21. Historic
22. Garavel
23. Wad
24. Indigo
25. Hit pay dirt
26. Dissolves
27. Casino game
28. Night next to
29. Hwy.
30. Proboscis
31. Rich fur
32. "Julius Caesar's" role
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If you have been registered for a year or more and have not confirmed your continuing presence in Jordan, please do so by contacting the Consular Section as soon as possible. Please also notify the Consular Section about any changes of address and/or telephone number. Such confirmation is in the interests of all British nationals in Jordan.

If names are not re-registered within three months the Embassy will be obliged to consider that those concerned have left the country. The names will accordingly be deleted from the register.

If you are a citizen of a Commonwealth country which does not have an Embassy or Consulate in Jordan please ask the British Embassy, Consular Section, about registration formalities.

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Minister requests firms not to lay off employees

AMMAN (J.T.) — Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Hamdi Taba'a has asked private enterprises, especially insurance companies, not to lay off staff in the event of any merger between two or more of these companies.

In a memo circulated to the merged companies and carried by the Arabic newspaper Al Rai, the minister warned against any staff layoffs or negative administrative changes as a result of mergers taken by the companies.

"It has been noticed that some companies tend to dismiss some of their employees in the course of mergers," the minister said. He reiterated the government's efforts to curb unemployment and stressed such layoffs would further aggravate the problem in the Kingdom.

The minister's memo came in response to a request by the Banking, Insurance and Auditing Association following complaints over cases of repressive dismissals by some companies.

Jordan, Egypt reportedly plan to set up joint floating hotel

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Egypt reportedly have plans to build a floating hotel connecting south of Jordan with the southern tip of Sinai peninsula.

The Arabic newspaper Sawt Al Shaah said in a report recently that the two governments had agreed to set up the joint venture as one of various similar projects to be carried out by the Jordan-Egypt Tourist Investments Company.

The report gave no further details other than saying shares for the project would be floated for public and private sectors in both countries.

Jordanian officials contacted by the Jordan Times said it was premature to unveil data about the project terms which are still being discussed.

Director General of the Jordan National Shipping Lines Company (JNSLC) Yasser Tal said the project could be profitable especially if it served the Sinai shores. As for Aqaba, Tal said he believed current services furnished by hotels there were enough unless future demands necessitate an expansion of the volume of hotel rooms.

The JNSLC operates ferries on the Aqaba-Nuweibe route, a sea-land link operational since April 1985.

Yarmouk University awards contract for residential quarter

IRBID (J.T.) — Yarmouk University has awarded a contract to a local company for the construction of a residential quarter for female students at the cost of JD 4.405 million.

According to the university's Secretary General Hamad Dweiri the project entails building 10 complexes in 700 days. These, he said, will be of two types — One for the undergraduates and groups eight buildings and the other two buildings for the post graduate students at the university.

The project also entails some buildings for services and utilities, courts for sports such as volleyball, basketball, lawn tennis and other facilities.

Earlier this month, Yarmouk University embarked on setting up facilities and buildings for the Faculty of Medical Sciences at the cost of JD 14 million.

ARMICO to conduct studies in N. Yemen

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman-based Arah Mining Company (ARMICO) has won a contract from North Yemen to conduct a feasibility study on the development of the country's granite and marble deposits. ARMICO, set up by the Council of Arah Economic Unity as a pan-Arah company, has a special unit for the development of granite and marble in Arah countries. The project in North Yemen will be financed by the Islamic Development Bank, according to an ARMICO source.

Saudi Cairo Bank reports big loss

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Cairo Bank said on Wednesday it lost 59.7 million riyals (\$16 million) in 1986, the biggest loss reported by a Saudi bank since oil revenues began dropping off in the early 1980s.

The loss came after six years of financial problems which prompted the central bank, the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA), to step in to support the Jeddah-based bank with a large volume of low-interest deposits.

Saudi Cairo, owned 40 per cent by Egypt's Banque Du Caire, published its 1986 figures nearly nine months after a reporting deadline set by the commerce ministry expired.

It confirmed it was going ahead with a rescue plan under which

the state-owned Public Investment Fund would inject 300 million riyals (\$80 million) into the bank, doubling capital to 600 million riyals (\$160 million).

This would dilute Banque Du Caire's shareholding to 20 per cent. An earlier rescue attempt only a few months ago doubled Saudi Cairo's capital from 150 million riyals (\$40 million).

The bank's troubles began in the early 1980s when it lost 408 million riyals (\$109 million) by speculating in precious metals. Bank officials said later a large part of its loan portfolio had gone sour and it declared zero profit for 1985.

At a shareholders meeting in 1985, the board said the acting director general, Hamad Al Humeidi, had resigned following

allegations that he had approved irregular loans.

A statement accompanying the 1986 data said his replacement, Abdul Aziz Zaidan, resigned at the end of 1986.

A total of 114.0 million riyals (\$30 million) was set aside in 1986 to cover bad or doubtful debts, an increase of 25 per cent over 1985.

Revenues after provisions fell 38 per cent to 122.7 million riyals (\$33 million), while expenses dropped 7.6 per cent to 182.3 million (\$49 million).

But the bankers estimate Saudi Cairo could have earned 80 to 90 million riyals (\$21 to \$24 million) on the open market from SAMA's low-interest deposits of about one billion riyals (\$267 million) with the bank.

Bahraini budget projects \$160m deficit

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain unveiled its 1988 budget on Wednesday, projecting a 60 million dinar (\$160 million) deficit to be bridged by borrowing on domestic markets.

The finance ministry set expenditure at 490 million dinars (\$1.3 billion), while revenues in-

cluding oil are put at 430 million dinars (\$1.14 billion).

The final outcome of 1987's budget will not emerge for some months, but expenditure was initially set at 560 million dinars (\$1.5 billion).

Bahrain began issuing treasury bills in December 1986 to help

fund its budget as world oil prices retreated. Several other Gulf states are now tapping local investors for funds by issuing government paper.

Bankers said the Bahrain government would have to raise its debt ceiling before increasing domestic borrowing.

Algeria pins hope on gas reserves

ALGERIERS (R) — While OPEC's latest pricing pact cracks under market pressure, Algeria has stepped up its bid for a larger share of the world gas market.

With vast untapped natural gas reserves, it has vowed never again to be caught out by a collapse in oil prices like that of the mid-1980s.

That slump saw development plans torn up, projects frozen or cancelled, and belts painfully tightened throughout the economy.

It also triggered the so-called "big switch" in energy policy. To protect against future price fluctuations, the government undertook to reduce its near-total dependence on oil revenues by building up the gas sector.

"Flexibility, that is the aim of our policy today," Sadek Boussema, director of the ministry of energy told Reuters in a recent interview.

He stressed Algeria's policy within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was unchanged. The country still supports a revenue rather than production policy to be obtained if necessary by cut-

ting output.

Meanwhile, new gas pipelines have been laid to enable easier deliveries to European clients and a drive for new customers has started. The policy appears to be bearing fruit.

Latest figures show natural gas exports last year represented 25 per cent of all hydro-carbon exports, nudging ahead of crude oil exports with 22 per cent and the same level as exports of refined products. Condensates accounted for 23-25 per cent and liquefied petroleum gas six to eight per cent.

Similar figures are expected this year and then natural gas exports could leap forward.

Officials say deals for natural gas exports to Britain, Greece and Turkey will be signed soon. They will supplement long-standing sales to traditional clients such as Belgium and France.

Significantly, the contracts with Turkey and Greece are long-term while the much-smaller British deal is seen as opening an important future market.

Over 20 years Athens will undertake to import some 12 billion cubic metres, while An-

ara will sign for 1.6 billion a year, energy ministry officials said.

Talks with West Germany, Spain, Italy, and even Libya, are also under way.

A long-running legal dispute with the U.S. company Boston Panhandle-Trunkline was finally settled and energy ministry officials now talk of a "takeoff" in the U.S. market.

They said they expected total sales of natural gas to the United States to rise to between five and six billion cubic metres in 1988 after dropping to one billion in 1986.

At home, the switch-over is now nearly over with 93 per cent of the country's electricity coming from gas rather than oil.

"It was natural for us to concentrate on domestic gas consumption, given such large gas reserves. We even sell it at a loss to some outlying districts as part of our development strategy," another senior energy ministry official said.

Last year, natural gas exports totalled seven billion cubic metres and could rise to as high as nine this year or next, according to official sources.

Gulf Arabs may help Egypt repay U.S. military loans

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf Arab states may step in to help Egypt if President Hosni Mubarak fails to persuade the United States this week to write off some of Cairo's military debts, bankers said Tuesday.

They said several of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, which Mubarak visited this month, were studying the possibility of buying part of the debt from Washington and rescheduling it at lower interest rates.

Egypt owes \$4.5 billion to the United States for arms bought after the late President Anwar Sadat switched allegiance from the Soviet camp to the West in the mid-1970s.

The debt carries an average interest rate of 11.8 per cent, with portions of it as high as 16 per cent. Egyptian officials argue it should be cut as interest rates have dropped sharply in recent years.

Sources close to Mubarak said the president, who arrived in Washington Tuesday as part of a tour of his Western allies, would press the Reagan administration to absorb Egypt of at least some of the debt.

They said he would argue Egypt played a strategic political and military role and its stability, vital to U.S. interests in the Middle East, could be undermined if debts continued to weaken its economy and led to social unrest.

Mubarak visited the six GCC states — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — at the beginning of January on a

But diplomats argued that Cairo could always make repayments in the form of military and other goods which would find a more natural market in the Gulf than in the Western world.

Egypt has a well-developed arms industry and plans to help to boost Kuwait's air defence system, train Gulf Arab officers and hold arms exhibitions to boost sales.

Sources travelling with Mubarak said he would tell U.S. leaders Cairo could not immediately implement more economic reforms advocated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) while continuing to play a political and military role in the region.

Egypt and the IMF agreed in 1987 on several economic reforms in return for emergency funds in a deal which enabled Cairo to reschedule part of its non-military debt to Western governments.

Egypt, with total foreign debts of more than \$40 billion, has so far rescheduled about \$4.3 billion worth of debts with five governments and Egyptian negotiators are now talking to the Scandinavian countries and Britain.

But, in addition to Cairo's decision last May to devalue its exchange rate from 1.35 Egyptian pounds to the dollar to about 2.20 pounds, the IMF wants Cairo to increase electricity prices and raise interest rates.

Bankers said the Egyptian government was reluctant to impose the full IMF prescription. Past attempts to lift subsidies or increase prices led to riots which forced the government to back down.

U.S., French firms win big Saudi jobs

BAHRAIN (R) — A U.S.-Saudi Arabian consortium signed a 146.9 million riyal (\$40 million) contract Tuesday to operate and maintain the kingdom's meteorologic and environment network, industry sources said.

The Meteorologic and Environmental Protection Administration (MEPA) awarded the three-year contract to the U.S. Bechtel Corporation and the Jeddah-based Saudi Services and Operating Company.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said the contract included the provision of equipment, systems

and stations for MEPA, concentrating on controlling marine pollution and monitoring any changes in the kingdom's marine environment.

SPA said the consortium would train 36 people to monitor air, water and noise pollution and the disposal of hazardous waste. The agency said it was the largest contract of its type to be signed in the Arab World.

The French building group Spie Batignolles has won a contract to build a petrochemical

plant in Yanbu industrial city on Saudi Arabia's west coast, industry sources said Tuesday.

They said construction could spin off dozens of other smaller plants in Yanbu using its output to manufacture paints, cleaning materials, insecticides and other products.

The turnkey contract, awarded Monday by Jeddah-based Safra Ltd., is worth approximately \$35 million.

Construction will last around 20 months.

South Korea eyes direct trade with Eastern Bloc

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea is close to establishing direct trade ties with East Germany and may give loans to some East European nations, according to news reports Wednesday.

KBS, the state-run broadcasting network, quoted unidentified government officials as saying South Korea and East Germany were near agreement on opening trade offices in each other's capitals.

South Korea is also considering loans of \$50 million each to two unidentified East European nations to help develop trade ties, the Yonhap News Agency said.

Government officials declined to confirm the reports, but said efforts were under way to open direct trade and other economic links with communist nations. Foreign ministry officials said the government was biding time with Poland and with Yugoslavia, which is outside the Soviet Bloc.

The government said Tuesday that Hungary had become the first communist nation to agree to open a trade office in South Korea. South Korea opened a trade office in Budapest last month.

South Korea, which is staunchly anti-communist and has no diplomatic relations with communist countries, has been seeking direct trade and economic links with the Eastern Bloc to develop new markets for its growing economy and build political influence.

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FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1988

YOUR HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Don't allow a conflict between your emotions and reason to interfere with your daily routine. Use these two aspects of your personality together. Be alert to opportunities, today, since many are present.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Plan an itinerary and stick to it today, and avoid wasting your time. A good friend can help you get a new project started.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't try to settle an account until you have discussed it with a clever friend who is an expert in this area. Share your ideas with your mate.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Opportunities abound today, but seize only those which you know you can handle. Make some plans for an important trip you must take.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Bring your potentials to the attention of a sister, and you can make some quick progress. Work on getting your home in order.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 23) A progressive friend can give you some great ideas on how to use more modern methods in business. Show your appreciation for the help.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 to Sept. 22) A jealous associate could make big trouble for you today, so steer clear of this person. If you tell others your support, be sure to take it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) An investment opportunity may become apparent today, but be sure

you don't tax your budget. Stick with tried-and-true methods.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Experts in business and family friends can be quite helpful to you in beginning some new project. Be more helpful to your mate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Catch up on correspondence which you have been neglecting for quite some time. Modern methods can help your business interests.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Your mate may have a good idea for improving your monetary status, so listen carefully. Work on improving the condition of your home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Don't procrastinate about presenting your ideas to superiors. Buy a nice gift for your mate, and tonight can be a very romantic one.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) This is an ideal day to confer with your family about how to make the future much brighter. Invite some trusted friends in tonight.

If Your Child Is Born Today He or she will be quite ingenious and inventive, and will have a natural talent for working with tools and other mechanisms. Plan to give your progeny as fine an education as possible so these talents are not wasted on a trivial vocation in the future.

"The Stars Impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1988

YOUR HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

A restless and nervous atmosphere will prevail tonight, so if you want to accomplish anything properly today, be sure to do it in the morning. Avoid making any promises which you may not be able to keep.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Have a chat with a good friend today, but be sure to avoid any arguments. If you entertain any guests tonight, stay within your budget.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Find a way to make more money in the business world so you can get your property properly repaired. Pay attention to health matters.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You may find that partners act strangely toward you today, but take this in stride and keep busy at your favorite activities.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Even if you are bored at work today, don't act that way or you could get into trouble. Be kind to a troubled co-worker.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 23) If you listen to some suggestions from a good friend today, you could profit greatly. Try to please your mate more and make your home happier.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 to Sept. 22) If a family friend tries to start an argu-

ment, take this in stride and maintain your poise. Be sure to pay attention to your regular duties.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Don't take any risks in motion of any kind, and be more concerned about the state of your health. Finish any projects you have started.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A responsibility you have taken on could make you feel tense, but honor your promise and finish this matter up promptly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You must use patience with a person who takes nothing seriously, or you could lose your temper and accomplish nothing all day.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't allow a co-worker to distract you from your duties and cause you to make errors. Put off recreations until your work is all finished.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If you proceed cautiously, you can take a calculated risk today and get good results. Be willing to do what your mate enjoys tonight.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Some condition at home may be annoying you, but handle it objectively. If any unexpected guests stop by, be hospitable and polite.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — News that U.S. fourth-quarter gross national product rose 4.2 per cent compared with a 4.3 per cent rise in the third quarter boosted Wall Street Wednesday and brought U.K. shares well above their lows by late afternoon, dealers said.

At 1559 GMT, the FTSE 100 share index was 1.2 points lower at 1,766.1 after the low of 1,758.1 at 1140 GMT. Dealers said prices had drifted lower ahead of the GNP figures on the back of Wall Street and Asian market declines overnight.

But Wall Street's 21-point advance in the 1 1/2 hours after the opening there cut back the early declines and brought in the buyers for U.K. equities, dealers said.

The U.S. GNP rise was above forecasts of between 3.5 per cent and four per cent growth and helped boost U.S. bond prices which in turn aided the strong run on Wall Street Wednesday afternoon.

Dealers had anticipated a surge in the dollar if the U.S. GNP figures came in better than expected. But this failed to materialise. The dollar held steady after touching lows on the GNP data.

U.S. envoy to arrive in Luanda for talks

Fierce fighting rages in Angola

LUANDA (R) — U.S. envoy Chester Crocker and Angolan government officials Thursday renew efforts to find a negotiated solution to the war in southern Angola and bring independence to South African-ruled Namibia (South West Africa).

But the visit by the U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, his third to Luanda in six months, will be overshadowed by fierce fighting and growing Cuban and South African involvement in the battle for Angola's key southern eastern garrison town of Cuito Cuanavale.

Angola's UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) rebels say government troops have fled the town which has been pounded by long-range South African guns.

But Angola says a major air strike by government and Cuban

pilots saved the town from capture. Cuito is Angola's main base in the south east and the only airfield from which it can hit easily at South African positions.

Western diplomats said the battle, and the growing involvement of South African forces and the 35,000 Cuban troops backing Angola, could only hamper the negotiations on Namibia.

The presence of the Cubans and South Africa's continued military occupation of southern Angola have been the major stumbling blocks to long-running

international efforts to achieve Namibian independence.

The diplomats expressed surprise that Crocker, who held talks in Luanda in July and September on the Namibian issue, should have chosen to make a third negotiating trip to Angola at this time.

The battle for Cuito began on Jan. 12 when an invading force of up to 6,000 South African troops, backed by aircraft and long-range guns, launched their attack. Cuban-piloted fighters stopped the advance just one kilometre from the town, according to Angolan military sources.

During his last visit in September, Crocker discussed a new Angolan proposal for a partial withdrawal of Cuban troops from southern Angola over a period of

two years. Angola had originally offered a three-year pullout.

The United States and South Africa have been demanding the withdrawal of the Cubans from Angola as a condition for any agreement on independence for Namibia.

Angolan Defence Ministry spokesmen have denied reports that Cuban reinforcements of up to 5,000 men, including tank crews and pilots, have been arriving in Angola in recent weeks.

The Angolan government, which has repeatedly said it is willing to continue efforts to find a negotiated settlement to the Namibia question, is also demanding that the United States stop military aid to UNITA, which it is supplying with sophisticated anti-aircraft missiles.

Contras, Sandinistas start direct talks today

SAN JOSE (R) — Nicaraguan contra rebels and officials of the Sandinista government open their first direct ceasefire talks Thursday with each side hoping to influence a key vote in the U.S. Congress on fresh aid to the rebels.

While both sides say they are eager for an immediate end to the fighting, diplomats say prospects for an early truce in the six-year-old war are bleak.

The Sandinistas say they will only discuss democracy with the rebels once the contras lay down their arms and join the peaceful opposition.

The contras insist on wide democratic reforms before agreeing to a ceasefire.

"The talks seem at an impasse before they even begin," a European diplomat said. "If the negotiations fail to get anywhere, each side is likely to portray the other as being uninterested in peace."

Both sides hope to influence Washington, where Congress is due to vote on Feb. 3 and 4 on a new \$36-million aid package proposed by President Reagan.

Rebel leaders are in Washington to lobby for the aid.

"The battle for the freedom of Nicaragua is moving to Washington from the mountains of Nicaragua," said one of the six rebel leaders, Pedro Joaquín Chamorro.

He spoke over the weekend in San Jose, the Costa Rican capital where the talks are to be held.

before leaving for the United States.

Rebel leaders charge that recent Sandinista moves to comply with a Central American peace plan are cosmetic and aimed solely at cutting off U.S. aid to the rebels.

They say U.S.-backed military pressure forces the Sandinistas to make concessions they would not make otherwise.

Without cash, the estimated 12,000-strong contras could disintegrate, allowing the leftist government to tighten its grip on power, the contras say.

Under Reagan's plan, \$3.6 million in military aid to the rebels will be disbursed only in the absence of a truce. The balance of the proposed \$36 million is for non-lethal aid.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has promised full democracy to comply with the regional peace plan, signed in August. The plan bars foreign aid to insurgents, demands wide democratic reforms, amnesties and ceasefires in Central America's three guerrilla wars.

In the past two weeks, Ortega has lifted a six-year state of emergency, scrapped war crimes courts and promised amnesty for about 3,300 detainees.

He proposed Thursday's direct talks, which are due to take place at a religious college on the outskirts of San Jose. They might be extended to Friday.

Historian panel finds no proof to back anti-Waldheim charges

VIENNA (R) — A member of the historical commission probing Kurt Waldheim's past has said the panel was unable to prove that the Austrian president was involved in war crimes but could question his credibility.

"We have not found conclusive documents that prove Waldheim is a war criminal," said West German military historian Manfred Messerschmidt.

Waldheim denies the war crimes charges and says he was unaware that Jews and others were deported to death camps from the Balkans while he served there as a World War II intelligence officer in the German army.

Asked by Austrian Television if Waldheim's credibility would be questioned in a commission report due next month, Messerschmidt said: "It could be that in one case or another it will not be possible to avoid going into these things."

The West German said he

sought unsuccessfully Tuesday to contact Yugoslav military historian Dusan Plenca to see if he could provide the documents that Plenca has said seriously implicate Waldheim in war crimes.

Plenca told Reuters in Belgrade that he would refuse to attend the commission meeting in Vienna. Messerschmidt said that if he remained out of contact the report would contain a reservation "taking Plenca into account."

The report will evaluate Waldheim's handling of his activities as well as giving a narrative account of them, he said, adding: "Our work will throw a little more light and thus provide more precise information."

Commission Chairman Hans Rudolf Kurz said earlier that the report would be handed over to the government on Feb. 8.

The historians are due to question Waldheim, 69, at his official residence Thursday.

U.S. criticises Salvadorean court for releasing rebels

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has criticised a Salvadoran court ruling to release three suspected rebels jailed for a 1983 attack on a cafe in which four off-duty U.S. Marines and nine others were killed.

In a statement, the State Department called the decision "surprising and extremely disappointing."

It said the United States had consulted closely with the Salvadoran government "and had strong reason to believe these suspects would not be released."

The military court ruled unanimously Tuesday that the attack was politically motivated and said the suspected rebels should be

freed under an amnesty called for in a Central American peace accord.

"We believe the decision to grant amnesty to them was wrong," the department said, adding that "we are pursuing every possible avenue in order to ensure these killers don't escape justice."

According to U.S. law, 10 per cent in U.S. economic support funds may not be obligated to El Salvador if the killers are freed. That amounts to \$18.5 million.

In San Salvador, a U.S. embassy spokesman said American officials were studying ways to appeal the decision.

Australia pledges Africa aid

CANBERRA (R) — Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden will pledge 100 million dollars (\$71 million) in aid for states close to South Africa during a tour starting Friday, government officials said Wednesday.

The Australian government, a constant critic of South Africa's apartheid system, recently described it as "a horror, a crime."

Australia had budgeted \$5 million dollars (\$39 million) in aid to southern Africa, but is increasing this to 100 million under its policy of allocating 0.036 per cent of its

gross national product to foreign aid.

Hayden's 11-nation, 26-day tour will start with the African states of Mauritius, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Kenya.

He then goes on to for talks, mostly on trade, in the Middle East which took 1.9 billion dollars (\$1.3 billion) in Australian exports in 1986/87.

Hayden will visit North Yemen, a big buyer of Australian wheat, and Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Israel. He will also go to the Maldives.

UDF formally supports Barre's presidential bid

PARIS (AP) — The Union for French Democracy (UDF), which makes up half of France's governing conservative coalition, has formally given its support to the presidential candidacy of former Premier Raymond Barre.

Barre's campaign aides have said he will officially declare himself a candidate for president on Feb. 8.

The first round of voting in the election is scheduled for April 24. If no candidate gets a majority in the first round, there will be a runoff between the top two candidates two weeks later.

Premier Jacques Chirac, whose neo-Gaullist Rally for the Republic Party (RPR) governs with UDF, declared himself a candi-

date on Jan. 16. The UDF, a centrist alliance, "has confidence in Raymond Barre to assume the highest of responsibilities," it said in a statement. "He has proven his qualities as a man of state."

The unanimous decision formalised the split in the governing majority behind two presidential candidates. About half of Chirac's cabinet ministers are expected to support Barre.

However, there have been no serious squabbles within the coalition, and the UDF statement stressed that, while mobilising behind Barre, it intended to "maintain in all circumstances the spirit of union of the majority."

Mexican coal mine fire death toll rises to 39

MONCLOVA, Mexico (R) — Thirty-nine coal miners were believed killed in a fire started by a short circuit in a mine north of Mexico, an official has said.

The accident in the state of Coahuila occurred Monday morning but by Tuesday night the last of the bodies were still being pulled out of the shaft on the mine's underground railcars, witnesses said.

As night fell, a few remaining relatives waited outside the mine for the last bodies to be brought up.

Hugo Garcia de Anda, an official of the state steel company Sidermax that operates the mine, told reporters 30 bodies had been recovered and nine were thought to remain in the mine.

He said 17 miners had been

injured in the fire, three of them in grave condition with third-degree burns over 70 per cent of their bodies.

Miners taking part in the rescue operation spoke of 46 dead and 20 injured but their versions could not be confirmed.

Independent checks were unavailable as mine authorities and soldiers prevented reporters from gaining access to the mine area.

The mine accident was the worst in Mexico since 1969 when 183 coal miners were killed in Barroteran, just six miles (10 kilometres) from the site of Monday's accident.

The accident occurred when a short circuit started a fire in the lower levels of the mine; Sidermax officials said.

Colombia announces tough anti-terrorist measures

BOGOTA (R) — The Colombian government has announced wide-ranging anti-terrorist measures after the kidnapping and murder of the country's attorney general by drug traffickers.

President Virgilio Barco, responding to the war declared by the drug barons against efforts to revive a U.S.-Colombia extradition treaty, said security forces would be strengthened and the government would create nearly 10,000 positions for judges, prosecutors and police inspectors.

He also said use of private helicopters would be severely controlled and that the army would tighten security checks on the nation's roadways.

Bogota mayoral candidate Andres Pastrana, kidnapped in Bogota a week ago, said his captors took him by helicopter to the farm where he was freed by police Monday, a few hours before the bullet-riddled body of Attorney General Carlos Mauro Hoyos was discovered nearby.

In a television address to the nation, Barco said an emergency cabinet meeting had adopted a

50-article "new statute for the defence of democracy" modelled after anti-terrorist legislation adopted in West Germany, Spain, Italy and Britain over the last decade.

The legislation, passed under a state of siege procedure, stiffens prison sentences for the terrorist-related crimes and streamlines the judicial process to make convictions easier, Barco said.

He pledged that hired assassins, known here as "sicarios," would be rooted out and given maximum jail terms under the measures. Colombia has no death penalty.

The United States, expressing outrage at the murder of Mauro Hoyos, offered Tuesday to help bring the killers to justice.

U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese said the perpetrators of Monday's kidnapping and murder must be held accountable.

At the State Department, spokesman Charles Redman said: "We are outraged and profoundly saddened by the abduction and assassination of Attorney General Hoyos."

U.S. successfully tests cruise missile in Canada

OTTAWA (R) — The United States has carried out a successful cruise missile test in Canada's far north after poor weather conditions and technical problems forced postponement of three previous attempts.

It was the second successful test this year despite criticism that the tests were unnecessary because of the superpower pact banning such weapons.

In Tuesday's test, an unarmed missile was released over the Beaufort Sea by a B-52 bomber and flew 1,500 miles (2,400

kilometres) to a weapons testing range in north eastern Alberta. The snow-covered terrain is considered similar to that of parts of the Soviet Union and the tests have been used to gauge the effectiveness of the missile's guidance system.

The Progressive Conservative government in Ottawa has said testing of the missiles does not conflict with Canada's support for the U.S.-Soviet agreement signed in December to eliminate intermediate range nuclear missiles from Europe and Asia.

Kabul to try Italian journalist

KABUL (R) — Italian journalist Fausto Balsalovo, captured by government forces in eastern Afghanistan two months ago, will be put on trial at a date to be decided, a senior Afghan official said.

The 26-year-old journalist was still being interrogated and the charges against him might range from spying to merely entering the country illegally, the official added.

"In accordance with our law whoever enters illegally has to be tried," said the official, speaking to Reuters.

The official said Western journalists were only regularly invited to Afghanistan so there was no justification for their entering the country illegally along with Muslim rebels.

He added that the case of each journalist caught entering illegally was decided on its merits.

"We do not accuse him automatically as a spy, but we do not know whether he is a journalist or something else. When he was caught he was dressed as a Nuristani — unless you talked to him

you did not know he was not a Nuristani."

Nuristan is a region of Afghanistan. The official said Italian consular officials had not been allowed to visit Balsalovo because his interrogation was not complete.

But he said the French Charge d'Affaires now had regular access to French journalist Alain Guillo, sentenced to 10 years in jail earlier this month on spying charges.

The Afghan government Tuesday pardoned six prominent Mujahideen commanders who had been sentenced to death in absentia four months ago.

The state-run Radio Kabul, monitored in Islamabad, said the pardon was the result of last November's grand national council meeting, the approval of the country's constitution and President Najib's offer of national reconciliation.

Rebels have breached a government security cordon encircling about 1,500 guerrillas near the southern Afghan city of Kandahar, rebel sources said Wednesday.

Lee becomes acting head of Taiwan's ruling party

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's ruling Nationalist Party bowed to public pressure and demands from young reformers within its ranks and nominated new President Lee Teng-hui as acting chairman Wednesday.

Lee will head the two-million-strong party that has ruled Taiwan since 1949, until its national congress in July, when the party will formally elect a new chairman.

The 65-year-old technocrat became Taiwan's first island-born president following the death of

Chiang Ching Kuo earlier this month but the post of party chairman fell vacant, leaving ageing conservatives jockeying with their liberal rivals to fill it.

The issue was resolved unanimously at a weekly meeting of the party's Central Committee, a party statement said.

Lee had been seen by many as a possible figurehead president, inheriting the job but out of the spotlight of Chiang, who spent his last years forcing through democratic reforms against opposition from the Nationalist old-guard.

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Prince Charles gets a kiss

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Prince Charles got a kiss on the cheek Wednesday from a woman who said he looks better in real life than in his photos. "Actually his photos don't do him justice... his skin is lovely. I would say he is great," said Patricia Minchington, 37. Later, Charles visited an urban housing development. He is to fly to Adelaide on Thursday. Diana spent much of the day resting after Tuesday's hectic celebrations in Sydney to mark Australia's 200th anniversary of European settlement. The couple is in Australia for a 10-day visit before flying to Thailand to celebrate King Bhumibol's 60th birthday. The couple arrived on Monday. A Buckingham Palace spokesman Tuesday denied as "absolute nonsense" a report that Princess Diana fainted from the heat during the bicentennial celebration. "No one was collapsing. It ran pretty smoothly. There were no hiccups," said a navy spokesman who was aboard the HMAS Cook, where Diana and Prince Charles watched the display of tall ships in Sydney Harbour. The spokesman said: "The princess had an enjoyable day and was talking to everyone on the ship."

Australia ends bicentennial celebration

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Australia finished wild celebrations marking the bicentennial and Wednesday resumed an official investigation into the deaths of 100 aborigines in police custody. The 200th anniversary of the founding of Australia by British convicts and other settlers produced the party of a lifetime Tuesday with 2 million people crowding the shores of Sydney harbour. "Some party," said the Sun. "Fabulous," echoed the Mirror while the Australian screamed: "Now for the next 200, a nation to be envied." "But the party's over now. It's time to look to the future," said the tabloid Sun, while the rival Mirror congratulated huge aboriginal protests for a "stateliness which will be respected and admired around the world."

Cabinet honours Thatcher

LONDON (R) — Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was treated to a lavish dinner by her cabinet to celebrate becoming the country's longest serving head of government this century. On Jan. 3, she reached 3,167 days in office and surpassed the previous record by Liberal Herbert Asquith between 1908 and 1916. In the oak-panelled coffee room of Westminster's Carlton Club, the prime minister and her husband Denis feasted on quails, coquilles of John Dory and lobster, veal Carlton and tangerine soup — all by courtesy of the cabinet ministers. She was presented with a watercolour of her office painted by Environment Secretary Nicholas Ridley in secret sessions while parked in his car outside 10 Downing Street. The evening was organised by Lord Whitelaw, the club's chairman and Thatcher's deputy until earlier this month when he resigned for health reasons.

Doctors not to save 2-faced baby

MIAMI (AP) — The parents and doctors of a baby born with two separate faces on his oversized, heart-shaped head have decided against taking heroic measures to save the child. "It's really very clear. There's no possibility for this baby to live any meaningful life," said Dr. Eduardo Bancalari, head of neonatology at Jackson Memorial Hospital. The infant remains in an intermediate care unit at the hospital, where he was born Friday. Bancalari said Monday that the baby, fed through a tube but needs no other life-support equipment, could live several months. The child is a rare variation of a Siamese Twin, a condition which occurs once per 100,000 births when the process of division which normally results in identical twins falls short of completion. The boy has one face on each side of his head. One face lay flat while the other sleeps, suggesting the possibility of two sets of undeveloped brains, doctors said. X-rays showed the baby had little brain tissue and no brain stem, said Dr. Charles Bauer.

'Aspirin reduces heart attack risk'

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. National Institutes of Health planned to release the results of an extensive study that drug industry sources said will show Aspirin can sharply reduce the risk of heart attacks. Industry sources familiar with the research said it built on a 1980 study that found that taking Aspirin regularly after a first heart attack reduced the odds of subsequent heart attacks because it had a thinning effect on blood. "There was a reduced mortality," said a delighted industry official who declined to be named. "The results should be rather accurate and very reliable because there was a high level of participation by doctors and very few dropped out." The latest study was designed to determine whether Aspirin also had a prophylactic effect against first heart attacks, enhancing the life expectancy of those who took Aspirin on a regular basis before suffering from an attack. The test used over 20,000 doctors, mostly middle-aged, as subjects in a so-called double-blind study, half took Aspirin, half took a Placebo or sugar pill. The sources said the study which will appear later this week in the New England Journal of Medicine would be conclusive because it included such a large number of doctors and because their drop-out rate was very low over the four-year span.

5th stolen Corot painting recovered

TOKYO (AP) — The last of five Camille Corot paintings stolen in France and sold in Japan by a French-Japanese ring of art thieves has been recovered, local news media reported Wednesday. Police investigators said the painting, Portrait of Madame Baodot, was being held by a South Korean resident of Japan as collateral on a 30-million-yen (\$236,220) loan to an acquaintance, the nationally circulated Asahi Shimbun newspaper reported. The newspaper did not give the man's name. Kyodo News Service said police investigators were negotiating with the man, a 44-year-old manager of a Mahjong Parlor, to submit the painting to be used as evidence in French courts. Police told the Associated Press their investigation was continuing and refused further comment. Last November, Japanese authorities returned to the French government four Corot paintings recovered here after they were stolen from a museum in Senor Eo Auvrois in 1984 and brought into Japan by a ring of art thieves. The group allegedly included at least two Frenchmen and one Japanese.

Tax rebates sought for brothel visits

ISTANBUL (R) — The men of Adana in southern Turkey are seeking tax rebates for their brothel expenses, claiming the visits are for health purposes. The mass-circulation Hurriyet newspaper reported that Adana taxmen were divided on whether the claim was legitimate and had referred the issue to the value-added tax (VAT) authorities. Turkish brothels have been legal for decades. A brothel receipt published by Hurriyet showed that a VAT rebate would earn a free brothel visit after every 25 for which the going rate of 2,000 lira (\$2) was paid.

Salvation Army officer leaves over \$400,000

LONDON (AP) — Catherine Bramwell-Booth, an officer in the Salvation Army for most of her long life and granddaughter of its founder, left an estate valued at £238,384 (nearly \$422,000), according to her will. Most of her estate was bequeathed to her sisters, Olive, 96, and Dora, 94, with whom she lived until her death last Oct. 3 at age 104. No other details were available. The family was left a large house and savings by their maternal grandfather, a medical doctor, who was not connected with the Evangelical and social reform organisation. Miss Bramwell-Booth also derived royalties from her eight published books, including popular poetry of a religious kind. She became a television personality in her 90s and kept a lifelong pledge never to smoke, swear, steal or drink alcohol.

Weekend Crossword not received

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
1,197 Tricard Model Services Inc.

LIFE IMITATES ART

East-West deals.	vulnerable	North	team for last year's Bridge Olympiad. The situation that has been written about frequently in bridge literature, bringing to mind Oscar Wilde's remark: "Life imitates art."
	NORTH		
	♠ K J 8 6		
	♥ J 5 2		
	♦ A 3		
	♣ Q J 10		
WEST	EAST		
♠ A 10 6 4	♠ 8 2		
♥ A 9 3	♥ K Q 8 4		
♦ J 1 2	♦ 9 6 5		
♣ K 7 5	♣ 9 6 4 3		
	SOUTH		
	♠ Q 7 3		
	♥ 10 7		
	♦ K Q 8 7 4		
	♣ A 8 2		
The bidding:			
North	East	South	West
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♣			

There are those who might feel that North had done her hand full justice with her first three bids, and there was little reason why she should have committed the hand to game. Nevertheless, careful defense was needed to defeat the final contract.

Since all four suits had been bid, Mme. Blouquist selected the jack of diamonds as her opening lead. Declarer won in dummy and immediately led a low spade to her queen and West's ace. The crucial moment was already at hand. Had West defended properly, declarer could now come in nine tricks by taking a rhye win in spades.

Alpwater, the European mineral water company, might find itself running afloat of women's rights activists for its involvement in bridge. The reason? Alpwater has decided to award an annual prize for the Best Play by a Woman! The runner-up for 1986 was Mme. Claude Blouquett of France. The hand occurred during the trials to select the French women's